

Mail 12-10-35
Don't Work of The Air Is Dry
WATER PLANT IN NULLARBOR

IF, as Prof. Kerr Grant says, the air of the Nullarbor Plains is dry, the plant will not be suitable for water extraction in that region," said Dr. W. Klaphake, a German scientist, who arrived at Outer Harbor in the Moldovia today.

He added that from reading he had formed the opinion that the Nullarbor Plains had great humidity. There were, however, vast tracts of country, where the plant would prove successful.

For an outlay of less than 500 Australians will be able to ensure unending supplies of water, according to the doctor.

He is going to Sydney to patent his plant, which he says can extract water from humid air.

"I have come to Australia because it offers the best market for the plant," he said. "I did not go ahead with the application for patent rights in Germany because my country has no need for such a plant. In Australia, however, it would be a sound financial proposition, and above all, of great benefit to the country."

Dr. Klaphake declined to disclose the details of his process. He said that water extraction was a physical and not a chemical action. The water would be stored in underground tanks.

"I would like to thank Prof. Kerr Grant for his good luck wish, expressed in 'The News,'" said the visitor.

"In reply to his query, I claim that my method is one hitherto unknown. There are practically no running creeks on the plant, so water extraction is economical. The only requirements are dry soil and humid air."

Dr. Klaphake, who is more than 6 ft. tall, is aged 35. He is a graduate of Leipzig University, and for the past two years has been an adviser to the German chemical industry. He said he had been working on the invention for many years, first for its scientific interest and later for its commercial value.

He had conducted successful experiments in the Alps, where atmospheric conditions were similar to many parts of Australia.

News 15-10-35
Scepticism Here Over Italy's Wool-Milk Claim

COMMENTING on the claim of Italians that they can produce wool from the by-products of milk, Prof. Kerr Grant of the Adelaide University said today that it would be unwise to ridicule the idea until more was known about it.

"It is conceivable," he said, "that something can be done with the protein content of milk; but I doubt whether the woolen industry is concerned by this claim to be able to produce wool from milk."

"I can only repeat what Mark Twain said when shown his own death notice:—I fear the statement is very much exaggerated."

The lecturer in physical chemistry at the University (Dr. S. W. Pennycook) said that for anyone to claim to be able to produce wool from a pound of milk was arrant nonsense.

"Ninety-six per cent. of milk is water," he said, "leaving less than a per cent. of casein for conversion to woolen fibres; even if this is possible. The absurdity of this statement might be difficult to believe by other claims made. Conversion from one type of protein to another is difficult, and you cannot run molecules into and out of them, passing through the soluble form."

"I am of opinion," added Dr. Pennycook, "that any improvement in wool dress will be due to the use of substitutes is not likely to come from milk."

MELBOURNE, Tuesday.—The Italian claim has come as a surprise to the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The chief executive officer (Sir David Rivett) said today that the only product that he could imagine the report had reference to was casein fibre, which usually was employed in the manufacture of such articles as buttons, serviette rings, and similar goods.

Without commenting on the probable fate of the new product, Sir David said that the council had samples of the German synthetic wool, woollita, which was a half-way product, but had not the elasticity of wool and was more of a rival to cotton than to wool.

News 16-10-35
STUDENTS INVADE LIBRARIES

"Swool-Vac" for Exams

All thoughts of pleasure are being put aside by Adelaide students because of "swool-vac," the popular name referring to the preparation for exams. Dances are a thing of the past, and Saturday sports remain the only diversion from pre-examination study.

Entries have closed for the University exams, which begin on November 7, and for the public exams, which start on November 22. The timetable for Varsity exams in all faculties was posted yesterday.

The Barr Smith Library, at the University, is a hive of industry until 9 o'clock each night, as students, with notes glued to books and lecture notes, and scarcely pausing to eat, put the finishing touches to their work.

Each afternoon the Public Library presents a similar picture when secondary and high school students make their invasion in quest of knowledge. Several students, who on Tuesday last, agreed that "swool-vac" was more of an ordeal than the actual examinations. The examinations brought a certain courage, born of despair, they said; preparing for them emphasised how little one really knew.

DIVINITY DEGREES IN ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sydney University May Conduct Examinations

When the twenty-third Synod of the Diocese of Sydney resumed the business of the third ordinary session this afternoon, Mr. J. A. T. Perry moved that Synod approve the Australian College of Theology conferring the degrees of Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Theology. He said that if the College of Theology were permitted to give these degrees after study and conformity to conditions, the Anglican Diocese would be enabled to continue their study of sacred learning. They would thus be better equipped for their clerical work.

Canon Garnett opposed the motion on the ground that the church should not appropriate to itself that which was recognised the world over as the right of the universities. The degrees of the Australian College of Theology would not be recognised outside limited church circles. He doubted if Parliament would legislate to recognise such degrees. Religion was being discussed one way or another every day at the Sydney University, where it was recognised as an important problem which should be debated with the true university feeling, giving due deference to the opinions and beliefs of others. He could tell Synod, without undue exaggeration, of the political secrets that the Senate of the University and the State Government were giving serious consideration to a scheme which would open the door for the degrees of B.D. and D.D. being granted by the Sydney University in circumstances which would place the holders of those degrees the same educational status in their own sphere as did the arts degree, medical and other degrees in their respective spheres.

Mr. Perry, in reply, said he did not believe that Parliament would give permission to the Sydney University to grant the degrees of B.D. and D.D. under conditions which would meet the approbation of the learned men of the church. He looked on the clergy as the sacred police of the community. The better they were equipped by learning the more effective would they be in the discharge of this responsible duty.

The motion was carried by 77 votes to 52.

Shortage of Doctors In Country Districts

In offering increased salaries for house surgeons at the Adelaide Hospital in order to attract the staff, the Government had attracted doctors from country districts and caused a problem there, said Mr. Christian (L.C.L.) in the Assembly yesterday. In his own district, Penong, Wudinna and Elliston were left without medical services. Mr. Christian asked if the Government would import house surgeons, as it had originally intended to do.

The Premier (Mr. Butler) said the Government respected the shortage of doctors. Those who had been engaged for the Adelaide Hospital would be there only temporarily, as students who had completed their course would become available at the end of the year.

His Excellency the Governor, at Government House yesterday morning, presented to Mr. William James Adey the badge of a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George; Dr. Helen Mary Mayo, Mr. Arthur John Green, and Lieutenant-Colonel William Francis James McGinn, D.S.O., M.C., the insignia of an Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; Mr. Ernest Harry Cornish, the badge of a Companion of the Imperial Service Order; and to Mr. Harold Edgar Whittle, the insignia of a member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Mr. Robert F. Stokes, a law student at the University of Adelaide, has been awarded the H. B. Piper prize for office practice and routine on the result of a recent practical examination which was open to members of the Adelaide University Law Students' Society. Mr. Stokes, who was educated at St. Peter's College, Adelaide, was admitted to the University. Last year he was secretary of the Adelaide University Non-pennant Tennis Club, and at present he is the assistant secretary of the Adelaide University Footlights Club. This is the second time the prize has been awarded.

HEADMASTERS' CLUB FORMED

Prof. Stewart On Teaching English

Mr. B. J. Gates, headmaster of the Union High School, speaking at the inaugural meeting of the Headmasters' Club at the Liberal Club Building, Adelaide, said that the members of the larger schools had felt that the ordinary teachers' associations had a certain courage, born of despair, they said; preparing for them emphasised how little one really knew.

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It was indeed gratifying to see such a representative assembly of headmasters of the largest schools in the metropolitan area, primary, secondary and the colleges. He was specially glad to welcome the Director of Education (Mr. Adey), who was the club's patron, and they hoped that Mr. Adey would later address them on the spiritual side of education.

In asking Professor J. I. M. Stewart, the Jury Professor of English language and literature at the University of Adelaide, to give his first address, Mr. Gates offered him the congratulations of the members on his appointment at the University.

Professor Stewart, in his talk on the object of teaching English in the schools and the University, said that English might be regarded as an elementary passport to adult citizenship though it had not always been so. In the vital point was that literacy in English taught the child to read and

Ado. 14-10-35

At a meeting of the Medical Board on Thursday, the following were registered as legally qualified medical practitioners of South Australia—Alfred Wilton, Krichauff, M.R.S., Ensmann, L.R.C.P. Lond, 1933; Nellie Winifred Cransell Haynes, M.B., Ch.B., Melb, 1917. Additional diplomas were registered as follows—John, Lionel Hayward, M.R.C.P. Lond, 1933; Norman Stannus Gurney, M.Ch. (Orth.), Liver, 1924; F.R.C.S., Edin, 1935.

Ado. 15-10-35

Dr. A. C. Garnett, locum tenens for Professor McKellar Stewart, the professor of philosophy at the University of Adelaide during his absence abroad, will leave for America early in January. He is accompanied by his wife and two sons. Dr. Garnett, who intends to live permanently in America, was granted at the University of Adelaide a leave of absence of two years ago after an absence of five years in America, where he lectured in Adelaide, the University of Indianapolis. Dr. Garnett has given several courses of lectures in connection with the Workers' Educational Association.