

News 22-10-35

Doctors Cite Cases of People Who Sleep Without Knowing It

BECAUSE they know of cases where people who, although they imagine that they do not sleep, actually have adequate rest, Adelaide authorities were disinclined today to accept, without the fullest substantiation, the claim that a Greenock man had slept only about five times in the past five years.

This man, Mr. Oscar Kruger, says that he eats and drinks well, and works hard.

Prof. C. Stanton Hicks, professor of human physiology and pharmacology at the University of Adelaide, recalled the established instance of a Hungarian shot through the brain in the war, who did not sleep for eight years. That man, however, had actually lost a por-

tion of his brain.

As a ship's surgeon, Prof. Hicks once dealt with a quartermaster who persisted in the claim that he had not slept for weeks. He was watched, and it was found that he slept soundly and regularly, although he genuinely believed that he did not sleep.

"Lacking fuller knowledge, I should say that the Greenock man has made an unintentional overstatement of his case," a doctor remarked. "Sleep is an essential, resting the nerves, the brain, and the heart, and repairing damages. Some people can do with very much less sleep than others—two hours' sleep out of 24 satisfies some extreme cases—but I cannot imagine anyone carrying on without sleep at all."

Contrasting View

On the opposite side of the road the aspect is as depressing as the western outlook is delightful. The dilapidated fence, 12 feet high in places, and propped up on the inside by pieces of timber, shuts off the view completely, hiding vistas of playing field and park beyond. The fence surrounds an area, several acres in extent, which is under the control of the Government, and has been reserved for future use as a women's hospital.

The scene behind this fence is not entirely pleasing, but it is much more attractive than the fence itself. Most of the land which the fence screens is vacant, and is used by the Adelaide Technical High School as a sports ground. In this respect, it is no different from the many cricket and football ovals which are to be found in the parklands, separated from a main roadway only by a post and wire fence. In the south-eastern portion, however, is a group of old, deserted buildings, surrounded by a lower corrugated iron fence, which were last used as a camp for single unemployed. On the southern side, adjacent to the Dental Institute, are six tennis courts and sheds which are used for storage purposes by the Architect-in-Chief's Department.

BRONZE AT ST. MARK'S COLLEGE

Unveiling Ceremony Next Week

In connection with the completion of the first 10 years since the establishment of St. Mark's College, Pennington terrace, North Adelaide, a bronze will be unveiled by Mr. J. F. Downer at the college next Wednesday afternoon. Members of the Council of St. Mark's College have issued invitations to an afternoon tea at the college that day, after which the unveiling ceremony will take place.

The inscription on the bronze reads as follows:—

"In this house, the Downer House, St. Mark's College, Sir Edmund Barton, Sir John Downer, and Mr. Justice O'Connor prepared a draft of the Australian constitution for the convention which met in Adelaide in 1897."

There is a Latin tag, "Virtutes ibi esse debent ubi consensus et unitas erit," by Seneca, also inscribed on the bronze, which means "justice is owing where there is agreement and unity."

At the ceremony, to which members of the founding council have been invited, Mr. Downer, Sir John Downer's son, will also present to the college a photograph of the three members of the drafting committee. This, and the bronze, will be placed in the students' common room in the Downer House at St. Mark's, which is part of the original college property purchased in 1922, and opened for residence in March, 1925.

Sir John Downer was Premier and Attorney-General of South Australia from 1885 to 1887, Chief Secretary in 1892, and Treasurer in 1893. He was a member of the Federal Conventions of 1891 and 1897-8, which drew up the Commonwealth Constitution. He became a Senator in the first Federal Parliament. From 1905 until 1915 he was a member of the Legislative Council.

Sir Edmund Barton was the first Prime Minister of Australia, and represented the Commonwealth at King Edward's Coronation in 1902. He was raised to the High Court Bench a year later, and in 1913 was Acting Chief Justice. He was senior Justice of the High Court at the time of his death in 1920.

Mr. Richard O'Connor was a leader of the Sydney Bar, and became a member of the first Federal Cabinet. In 1903 he was appointed a justice of the High Court, and from 1905 was the first president of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. He died in 1912.

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From C. Russell, Henley Beach:—I agree with your correspondents, and would go further and request that both 5CL and 5CK should broadcast national talks every night between 7 and 9 p.m. The people should be encouraged to listen to the University professors, and radio is the only medium by which they are heard, as few people attend their public lectures.

Aurora Visible From City

Following the aurora which was recently seen in the South-East, one was seen last night in Adelaide. It was reported that the aurora made its appearance about 9 p.m., and was visible for an hour.

Mr. M. Iliffe, of the Adelaide University, said that a red glow first appeared in the southern sky, and then two well-defined vertical streamers, of a palish blue hue, were noticed. They disappeared, and two faint streamers appeared to the left of the red patch, lasting several minutes. Another well-defined streamer then manifested itself, and later a fairly brilliant patch of palish green light appeared in the west, a few degrees above the horizon, and thinned out into a streamer. Two other streamers, although not so clearly defined, also became apparent. They eventually disappeared, leaving a red glow, which remained until about 10 p.m.

Hedge To Hide Buildings

If the outside fence were removed, the old buildings in the rear could soon be completely obscured by the planting of quickly-growing hedge plants or a row of trees. In a few years, at trifling cost, the buildings would be hidden from public view, and the whole scene would harmonise with the Botanic Garden in the eastern background.

Suitable hedge plants or trees in pots, which a nurseryman said could be planted now, are obtainable from the Government nursery at Belair. It is estimated that a row of 100 hedge plants, nine feet apart, would extend from the Frome road boundary of the tennis courts past the old buildings as far as the Botanic Garden.

The replacing of the existing fence with a low post and wire fence would not be a costly undertaking. At present more than 1,000 men are being given a day's work a week to enable them to pay their rent. In the Assembly recently a Minister said these men were engaged, in the main, on unnecessary work. Under the supervision of departmental officers, a gang of these men would remove the fence in a few days. The sale of the dismantled iron and timber would offset to a large extent the cost of a new post and wire fence.

The Registrar of the Melbourne University (Mr. J. P. Bainbridge) will submit his resignation to the University Council in June, to take effect as from December, 1936.

Mr. F. C. Hassell, who graduated in architectural engineering at the University of Adelaide in 1933, will leave by the 11 o'clock train for London tomorrow. He intends to continue post-graduate study in architecture and engineering at the University of London. Mr. Hassell expects to be abroad for two years.

Dr. R. S. Matters and Mr. Alexander Melrose were reappointed members of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery by Executive Council yesterday.

B.M.A. Gives Two Prizes For Students

The British Medical Association is donating two prizes in clinical medicine to be competed for by fifth and sixth year medical students. The prize for the sixth year will be awarded from the results of the annual examination in clinical medicine, but fifth year students will have a special test.

Dr. H. M. Fisher, F.R.C.S., will be temporary honorary assistant gynaecologist at the Adelaide Hospital during the absence on leave of Dr. Matters. This appointment was confirmed in Executive Council today.

The Government has appointed Dr. H. M. Fisher to be temporary honorary assistant gynaecologist at the Adelaide Hospital in place of Dr. R. Matters, who is on leave.

Merchants' Quotations

Enquiries from hardware merchants yesterday showed that the cost of a new fence similar to the one in Frome road opposite the Zoological Gardens and in other parts of the parklands would be small. At retail prices the whole job could be carried out with the following materials:—

75 7-ft. farrah posts, 6 in. by 3 in., at 3/9 each	£14 2 0
6 cwt. No. 8 gauge fencing wire (about 3,360 yards), at 18/9 cwt.	5 12 6
Paints for posts	5 0 0
100 cupressus lambertiana horizontals, at 1/6 each	7 10 0
Total	£32 4 6

If this work could be put in hand, one of Adelaide's worst eyesores would disappear.

STRANGE YAWNING COMPLAINT

Woman Partially Exhausted But Has No Malady

VICTORIA, B.C., October 23. Physicians here are puzzled by the case of Mrs. P. E. Wakelin, 42, who has yawned one to 12 times every minute, whether sleeping or awake, for the past six weeks. An examination of her revealed no malady, but she is partially exhausted from yawning. A score of medical treatments have failed, including the application of oxygen.

UNSIGHTLY FENCE ON FROME ROAD Another Plea For Removal

Recent improvements in the University grounds have directed attention afresh to the unsightliness of the corrugated iron fence on the eastern side of Frome road, and made more pronounced the contrast between the fence and its surroundings.

The demolition of this fence, it is suggested, would provide useful work for the unemployed who are allowed to earn cash for their rent, and an unobtrusive post and wire fence, similar to that used throughout the parklands, could be erected at a cost of less than £30 for materials.

At present the fence spoils one of Adelaide's most beautiful thoroughfares. Along Frome road the plane trees are now in fresh leaf, and, meeting overhead in the centre of the roadway, form an archway as far as the Botanic Park entrance. The beauty of the leafy canopy is enhanced on the western side by the handsome fence bordering the Jubilee Oval and University grounds, through which may be glimpsed masses of flowers which now adorn the banks between the University buildings. Clumps of scarlet, pink and yellow mesembrianthemum and other blooms are making a brilliant show in a setting of ornate buildings, with the green oval in the foreground.

Professor's Comment

Professor C. S. Hicks, Professor of Human Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Adelaide, describing the case as most interesting and unusual, said yesterday that yawning was a sign of a lack of sufficient oxygen, or an excess of carbonic acid in the blood.

Apparently the nervous mechanism which was part of the phenomenon of yawning became, in this instance, charged so that it was no longer responsive to the normal stimulus to yawn.

Dr. Bertram Thomas, explorer and writer on Arabia, will give a public lecture arranged by the University of Adelaide and the Royal Geographical Society, on Wednesday, November 13, at the Physics Theatre of the University. Dr. Thomas will arrive in Adelaide a few days before the lecture.

Music Examination Prizes

The Council of the University of Adelaide has adopted the report of the music examiners, and yesterday awarded prizes on the results of the recent public examinations. A prize of 20 guineas to the best candidate who has passed as an executant in the licentiate examination has been awarded to Thelma Joyce Sumner, Elder Conservatorium (pupil of Mr. George Pearce). The following candidates were also awarded exhibitions in connection with the University music examinations:—Grade 3, Kathleen Wiley, Mr. B. Evans (A.M.U.A.); Grade 4, Winifred J. Nankivell and Mrs. M. Woollett (L.A.R.M.).

The council of the University of Adelaide has adopted the report of the board of examiners recommending that the thesis presented by Miss E. R. Cleland, a daughter of Professor J. B. Cleland, on "The Anatomy of Some Australian Nematodes," be accepted for the degree of master of science. The degree will be conferred in December.

University Of W.A. (Perth).—The new science block of the University of Western Australia, which has been erected at a cost of £60,000, was officially opened yesterday afternoon by the Chief Secretary (Mr. Drew).

St. Mark's Scholarships And Bursaries

The Council of St. Mark's College is offering the following scholarships and bursaries for 1936:—Harold Fisher Scholarship of £45, Theological Bursary of £45 and a financial assistance bursary of £40.

In general the council awards scholarships for three years if the progress of holders is satisfactory. Bursaries are granted under similar conditions for three or more years. Awards are not usually made to students who hold both Government bursaries and school scholarships of a substantial nature. Candidates should send details of their careers to the Master of St. Mark's College (Dr. A. Grenfell Price).

University Commemoration.—It was announced yesterday, at the monthly meeting of the Council of the University of Adelaide, that the annual commemoration would be held on Wednesday, December 11, at the Elder Hall.

The following five members will retire from the council of the University of Adelaide, and are eligible for re-election at the next meeting of the University senate:—Sir Langdon Bonython, Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, Dr. Helen Mayo, Dr. A. Grenfell Price, and Mr. W. R. Bayly.

The council of the University of Adelaide has re-elected Professor T. Harvey Johnston (professor in zoology at the University) and Mr. R. N. Finlayson, an LL.B. graduate of the University, its representatives on the board of governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of South Australia.