

NEW NORTHFIELD SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Coffey From Elliston

Dr. F. F. Coffey reached Adelaide today from Elliston to begin his three months' appointment as medical superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Northfield.

Dr. Coffey's departure from Elliston has left the West Coast town without a doctor and residents will meet at Colton on Wednesday to consider a decision on another.

Dr. Coffey succeeds Dr. A. D. Byrne, the medical superintendent of Northfield, who has resigned to take up private practice.

KNOWLEDGE OF EPIDEMICS

Since graduating in 1928, Dr. Coffey has gained experience in nearly all the States. He completed his course in infectious training at the Fairfield Infectious Hospital in Victoria, and has since gained valuable knowledge during epidemic outbreaks and scarlet fever in Tasmania and Victoria.

He was acting medical superintendent of the Elliston District Hospital, resident medical officer at St. Vincent's Hospital, East Melbourne, and resident medical officer and acting registrar at the Brisbane General Hospital.

Adv. 18-1-35.

DOCTORS URGED TO REORGANISE

“Political Action is Essential”

HOSPITAL SYSTEM CRITICISED

MELBOURNE, January 17. Declaring that the medical profession in Australia should be reorganised on a political basis under energetic leadership to regain and enlarge its prestige for the furtherance of social reform, the director of the Brisbane and District Laboratory of Pathology (Dr. J. V. Duhig), in his presidential address today to the medical science conference of the Australian Medical Science Congress, said that medicine should no longer be a political playing-field managed through earnest, honest men. He decried as “zigzag Frankenstein”

the reading of 15 presidential addresses to sections was the feature of the first business session at the congress. The subject was discussed by various presidents, all of whom are eminent scientists, and covered a wide field of biology, bacteriology, physiology and behavior, and use and development of human intelligence, medicine was the keynote of the day.

Speaking on the development of medicine in the social plan, Dr. Duhig said that as the synthesis of all of the sciences and the medium of study of human beings, medicine is by its very nature and use and development of human intelligence, medicine was the keynote of the day. It had not, however, articulated perfectly with the rest of the social spectrum for the reason that it had been pursued as a narrow and exclusive activity, simply, or as an instrument of government to obtain just a bare margin of improvement against destructive and devastating diseases which have never been an integral part of the social plan of any great statesman.

The reasons for this have been mainly historical or evolutionary, in that the development of medicine had not yet developed to the point where the framers of State health insurance, the State Parliament—and only vaguely to them—as the most important pursuit of man and the highest duty of the State in a special way. The role of political action in the social development of medicine has been dual. The old dichotomies both of loyalty and service, such as to a voluntary association on the one hand and to the State on the other, or to the State with allegiance as distinct, as it were, from the stark truth of science, was now out of date. The medical profession in Australia at least must be reorganised on a political basis under energetic leadership to regain and enlarge its prestige so that it shall be consulted and include enlightened social reform within its treatment to the people.

“Medicine should no longer be a political playing of experts, though address as to the State, much ad-

most educate itself along broader lines, come right up to date in science and revert to the status of last century in prestige and social influence.

The hospital system has become the keystone, because that is the side of medicine that appeals to the voter-catcher and the doctor-catcher. It is drawn into the whirlpool of attraction of the spurious prestige of honorary appointments.

Real Democracy
“It has become clear that democracy is the only form of government which is at all likely to promote universal happiness,” Dr. Duhig said, “but in our country this form of government has not been a success because of the growth of exploitation of the advanced and the representative of the people, and because political economy is almost completely devoid of guiding principles and promotes the complete defiance of the fundamental democratic theory. To the scientist, the thought of this failure is extremely repugnant, but its cause is not in politicians themselves, but in a reluctance on the human race to face the truth of the necessity for a just and disciplined of an unfamiliar kind.

There is a psychological reason for the enormous success of the industrial man affair, and an illusion on the other, to blame the politician for the enormous success of his methods. Human affairs can be regulated only by frank, frank and most sincere and truthful discussion of all aspects of our activities. This must be more susceptible, if it were but known, of a scientific treatment as the analysis of a complex problem of social, voluntary or enforced, evolution, or situations are more perilous than in physical science.

“Democracy should imply full freedom to discuss and criticize beliefs and theories, and a willingness to face conflicting views, but the almost insuperable difficulty of educating humans completely stifles all effort, and frees speech and enlightened discussion. In Australia, the central tendency of the central Government and District Laboratory of Pathology, while in some of the States by the effect of the incidence of taxation, a thinly-veiled Communism is enforced, so that private industry and commerce and production has almost ceased to exist.”

Adelaide Doctor Opposes Drastic Action

An Adelaide doctor said yesterday that, in urging drastic changes, Dr. Duhig was the opinion of the majority of medical men would not support a political organization necessary to improve the medical profession. He said that he was an extreme, and perhaps, to be more correct, than the average person. The British Medical Association had certain political side and made itself heard on questions affecting the welfare of the medical profession on its own. There was nothing sufficient in its name with the social status of a medical profession to warrant drastic action.

A larger amount of work was done gratuitously by doctors than most professions, and the fact that medicine had been pursued as means of livelihood simply was incorrect. He said that the medical men had entered the profession for something more than merely making a livelihood. They had adopted a business career, they were probably a better doctor for better material. Australian medical men could certainly do much more for the general public service practitioners, and he thought they kept abreast with modern ideas. He said that he did not see anything wrong with honorary appointments in medicine, but that he did not see hospitals had developed beyond the stage of having to cater for the indigent only all moderately persons were, in fact, in places, “right to public” for treatment. That was also desirable, partly because modern treatment of disease had become more expensive. With the gradual growth of the hospital system, the medical profession had taken on more than it could ultimately cope with. It was questionable whether doctors would

STATE FUNERAL OF SIR WALTER KINGSMILL

Tribute By Bishop Coadjutor

SYDNEY, January 17. There was a religious service for the late Sir Walter Kingsmill at the Commonwealth and State Parliaments, Naval and Military Forces and many other public and professional communities, as the service at St. Andrew's Cathedral, which preceded the State funeral, formerly President of the Senate.

In a tribute the Bishop Coadjutor (Bishop) said: “Politics is the poorer for the passing of Sir Walter Kingsmill, for politics can never rise again to the high standards of his personalities, and when a great and good man goes out of our midst we are the losers. Even the briefest review of the life and activities of the late Sir Walter Kingsmill makes it clear that, as a leader of the people and as a devoted and unselfish public servant, he rendered deep service. To many of us whose lives and activities have been confined to the more eastern States, he was not known, excepting as a name, a great name. Of his own personal qualities we knew but little, but he was a man of high character, whose diversified interests in which he became absorbed in his work, but he gave the very best of himself to his country, Australia and later in Western Australia.”

Bishop Kibbey conducted the service at the first service in the West at Sydney. The cortege proceeded to Rockwood, where it was met and escorted to the funeral home of the R.A.A.F. The service at the crematorium was conducted by Dean Talbot. Subsequently, the remains were placed on the Centaph.

It was announced yesterday by the secretary of the Metropolitan Infectious Diseases Association that Dr. F. F. Coffey, who had arrived from Elliston that day, had been appointed as the acting superintendent at the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Northfield. The appointment is for three months. Dr. A. D. Byrne, who is the superintendent, is assigned to take up private practice. Dr. Coffey graduated at the Melbourne University in 1928 and has been in Elliston for about four years. He was Acting Medical Superintendent at the Elliston District Hospital. At the Fairfield Infectious Hospital, at Victoria, Dr. Coffey completed his course in infectious training. He was also a resident medical officer at St. Vincent's Hospital, East Melbourne, and a resident medical officer and Acting Registrar at the Brisbane General Hospital.

Fine Personality Passes

An old school fellow of the late Sir Walter Kingsmill associated with him for many years in Western Australia, yesterday spoke to me of the gentlemanly and personality of the man.

“Sir Walter Kingsmill was never too busy to consider the needs of others,” he said. “He was very keen on fishing, and never lost a moment of time on his river. I got into which English fish had been put. He was President of the Lawn Tennis Association for many years, and although he did not play, he never missed a big tournament. He was also a cricketer of note, and always one of the lights of the annual match between Parliament and the Press. In his youth he played for St. Peter's College, a contemporary of Sir George Murray.”

As President of the Legislative Council he was popular in that somewhat of a line, and he put everything before the House. He had so many interests in the State that he was engaged in certain circles that he did not divert sufficient attention to his ministerial duties. His secretary, however, told me that he never missed a day. He said that Sir Walter Kingsmill could pick up a huge pile of papers, read them all, and then turn up to a determination in five minutes, whereas previous Ministers would take an hour or two to do the same job.”

The idea of a nation-wide system of insurance was supported by the doctor, who would cost very little to provide for research spread over the entire community would be felt scarcely at all. He said that every nation to contribute something to the advancement of medical science. Much research and thought were being put into it. A high standard of medical skill could be obtained for the community.

HOSPITAL WORK FOR YOUNG DOCTORS

Idea Favored in Adelaide

The opinion expressed by the Minister of Public Health in New South Wales (Mr. Weaver) and the Director General of Medical Services (Sir Raphael Cilento), that all doctors should be compelled to do at least one year's work in a public hospital before entering private practice, is endorsed in Government and medical circles in Adelaide.

The Chief Secretary (Mr. Ritchie) said yesterday that he was heartily in accord with the idea. As far as practicable the Government made it a stipulation that all doctors, after they had qualified at the University should gain at least one year's experience in public hospitals. It was not possible for the practice to be adopted in all cases, particularly when a man who came from another State took his medical qualification at the University. The Inspector General of Hospitals (Dr. Morris) said he thought it would be of advantage to the industry if young doctors went to a public hospital for a year after graduating. Usually it was their ambition to do so, and they were glad to do so. A sufficient supply of graduates from the University to supply the demands of the industry would be met, present times there had been a shortage of doctors for the public hospitals in all States.

Other doctors agreed that invaluable experience was gained by young doctors at public hospitals. It was a necessary part of the medical education. The Association also favors their getting practical experience at such institutions before engaging in private practice.

Making of the Mind

“The Making of Minds” was the subject of the presidential address given to the section of education, psychology and philosophy by Professor J. McKellar Stewart, of the University of Melbourne.

“When minds come they arrive as inseparable partners of objects,” he said. “Consciousness of objects and objects sensed, feel, thought—emerge together. No object, no conscious life; no conscious life, no object. There are no first conscious life, and then afterwards objects; neither are there first objects and then conscious life; conscious living of objects, or objects sensed, both are co-existent in the primordial contact fact. From this beginning conscious lives or minds have developed to their present level. They grow by sensing, and appreciating; and growth along these lines has brought science and poetry and morality and religion and philosophy. But at the beginning of life in the primordial fact—object consciousness lived. The routes begin to develop, but they are objects of worth or value and thus become a stimulus in the ordinal and genuine sense that that word. Objects elicit responses and thus become a stimulus leading to knowledge, of desires leading to action, of appreciations which result in contemplation of life. Along all the routes the indelible partnership maintains itself. Subverts or mind's make themselves, live and grow, only by communing with objects.”

The intrinsic functions of a mind were, he said, attention, he said. Memory was the past, and he said went into the present so that the past created there, giving the present its content, and thus the present condition was the function which rendered content.

“While the present conscious moment of the past was by holding the object in mind, it was, in a way, to permit the object to disclose its nature.”

AUSTRALIAN RHODES SCHOLARS TO MEET IN MELBOURNE

The second biennial conference of the Association of Rhodes Scholars returning to Australia will open at Trinity College, Melbourne, on the next Thursday, and continue until the following day. The delegate from the Adelaide branch of the association will be Dr. C. T. Mackenzie, president of the Association here. Every member of Adelaide, who will remain in Melbourne until the Congress of the Australian and New Zealand Rhodes scholars for the Advancement of Science, will be present. It is proposed that Dr. F. F. Coffey be invited to attend as a member of the Rhodes Association here. Every member of the Adelaide branch of the association (Dr. William Ray) and the association (Dr. William Harbour, master of St. Andrew's College) will be unable to attend.