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Leaving Examination English

From "A Parent" - In reply to "Leaving Examination English" could be specific enough in my criticism of the many text books if space permitted. There are several important ailments in "William Blake" "The Tiger" and lines such as, "Tiger, tiger, burning bright in the forests of the night" (as these animals would be visible in a tropical jungle in the darkness) strike me as a mere jingle. Admittedly the "Tiger" is quite novel, like that of "Twinkle, twinkle, little star," but the poem as a whole, with its unanswered questionings, leads nowhere. Poetry only really interests me as a teacher, helpful in some way, and inspiring. A study of the philosophy of our English mind (like William Blake) could well be left to candidates for the B.A. degree. As a pattern for the student may need, I recommend to the author the writings of a living Australian essayist like Professor Walter Murdoch, or the anthology entitled "Australian Essays," lately published by the Melbourne University Press.

From "Literary" - "Straws show, Sir, who does any examination, teacher, or student gain by making a subject so distasteful to students, by reason of the amount of time they are to indulge in, that when they leave school, few of them ever bother to read any more." I am sure that the reason is not hard to find. They are sick to death of it by the time they reach school, and it takes years for them to find their way back to literature, which if properly considered should be a distinct pleasure, and make an appreciable contribution to the happiness of life and living. Would it not be possible to eliminate some of the books set, and give a student a chance to assimilate the few, rather than suffer from mental indigestion and nausea through having to swallow the lot?

From "Mother" - "I am glad that someone has had the courage to speak up. The subject of home work is dead. The list of books chosen should be revised. I am tired of seeing my boys night after night, sitting at their home-work in which English plays a big part, sitting up till 10 o'clock, not daring to leave their beds, as they fail to complete their work. It is not fair, and they are told they will not pass at the end of the year. From a health standpoint it is a pity to have the passing of such an examination at such a cost to growing boys and girls, and to their parents. It is not possible for children to learn all this in necessary in school hours? If not, the subjects are over-loaded."

OBITUARY

Mr. Samuel Goudie, who has been the chief caretaker at the University of Adelaide since 1914, died early yesterday. The subject of some obituary notice. He was much esteemed by the staff and his colleagues there, and in an extremely friendly manner by all those with whom he came in contact.

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MEDICINE SURVEY AND ALCOHOL

W.C.T.U. To Ask University For Enquiry

A request that the use of alcohol be considered by the medical school at the University, according to the latest findings of science in other parts of the world, was contained in a motion carried on Saturday at the young people's summer school, conducted at an extremely beautiful location by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. During discussion the view was expressed that more might be done by the Adelaide University to bring medical knowledge regarding alcohol more in line with the scientific research in England and the Continent.

Following motion was carried: "That in this assembly respectfully requested that the subject of alcohol be carefully considered by our medical school, according to the latest findings of science, and that our young people's medical men regarding the effect of this drug be asked to have a resolution brought up on the subject."

The following motion was forwarded to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine: "That a paper entitled 'Acknowledging our Debt to the Past' was read by Miss J. Topperman at the morning session."

Effects of Alcohol

Miss O. E. in an address on the illutions about alcohol, said that many of these had been shattered by the latest findings of medical men, and was now definitely established, she said, that alcoholic beverages could not build up a practically negligible. Alcohol would not stimulate the heart, but acted as a depressant.

Chief Justice Davey, in an address on child psychology, dealt with the reactions of children and youth to their environment, both in the home and the outside world. Poverty, drunkenness, over-crowding, excessive punishment, and the influence of their food values are the causes of misbehavior and sub-normality in children. Much was being done by special child welfare officers, in "home" suggestions to parents to combat these adverse conditions.

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Leaving Examination English

From J. C. Jenkinson, Goolwa - In your issue of March 14 "Leaving Examination English" you refer to a poem by "A Parent" for calling Blake's poem "The Tiger" "an obscure riddle." With the hope that in the end the "Tiger" will be fully restored, I quote from Dean Inge's essay "Some Disrespectful Criticisms" in "More Lay Thoughts" (London, 1934 edition) - "Tiger, tiger, burning bright in the forests of the night" (Blake). This is one of the poems which are supposed to be Blake on one of the summits of Parnassus. He was puzzled to know whether the same Creator produced the tiger and the lamb. He evidently thought that the tiger's coat phosphoresces like a glow-worm, instead of being a very effective camouflage in the jungle. A naturalist would share his surprise at an arrangement so obviously in the interest of the tiger's well-being. From "High School" - "A Parent" has done well to ventilate a long standing grievance, and our protest against the overburdened list of literature and poetry that leaving examinations have imposed on the young people. They have other subjects in which they must pass to gain a certificate, the folly of expecting too much of the young people in Australia, and yet not ask that the standard be lowered, but it should be possible for an examiner to judge of the quality and capabilities of a student with fewer books wisely chosen. The books set are fine reading for older people, but the average child of 16 years.

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Mr. Tindale Lectures On Early Inhabitants Of Australia

A lecture on "The Peopling of the Australian Region" was given by Mr. N. B. Tindale, Ethnologist at the Museum, to the Field Naturalists' section of the British primitive people, Institute Building, North terrace, last night. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides showing geographical regions of Asia, India and the Pacific, and the racial types associated with them.

Mr. Tindale said that the first man came to Australia many thousands of years ago, perhaps as far back as the end of the Pleistocene Age. He described the drift of primitive people from Asia across the Pacific. A little-known fact which he pointed out was that, by describing a circuitous route among the islands, one could travel from Asia to Australia without having at any time to cross more than ten or twelve miles of open sea. This route, in their primitive canoes, the first inhabitants of Australia came. They were the aboriginal people of the island found in Borneo, Ceylon and Cochin China. These people were supplanted by a more advanced race, the Malays, about 40,000 years ago. The island then was survivors of the old Negro type. The last remaining remnants of this aboriginal type of the century, was of this primitive stock.

Dr. Collin Robjohns, a graduate of the University of Adelaide, who has completed his studies in tropical medicine and hygiene at Hongkong, China, has arrived at Adelaide. He is accompanied by his wife, Dorothy Haslam, also a graduate of the University of Adelaide, who is bound for Hankow, Central China, to work in the Chinese Red Cross Unit.

CARNEGIE CORPORATION GRANTS

Trustee's Visit To Canberra

Officials of the Canberra University and the National Library are hopeful that the enthusiasm displayed yesterday by Dr. F. E. Keppel, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, will be the prelude to a rich endowment from the ten million dollar fund set aside by the trust for Empire institutions.

Hitherto the corporation has not distributed many grants in Australia, and Dr. Keppel's visit is in the nature of a survey of possibly deserving educational institutions. One suggestion in which he appeared particularly interested was in the foundation of a chair of Pacific relations and Oriental studies in connection with the proposed National University at Canberra.

News 9.3.35

MEDICAL HELP FOR ABORIGINES

Suggestion for Mission

A plan for the establishment, as a centenary gesture, of a medical mission for aborigines in Central Australia was suggested to the State Presbyterian Assembly by the new moderator (Dr. Charles Duguid) last night.

He offered to give £100 for three years at least towards the salary of an approved Christian medical missionary.

"The health of the aborigine in his bush haunts, where he has been almost untouched by civilisation, is excellent," said Dr. Duguid, "but where he has to compete with cattle and white men it is very bad."

"The health of the natives in the northern parts of South Australia is serious, and the only hope is to get them away from the townships and as far as possible from contact with white men. There never has been a medical missionary in Australia, and yet never did a people need one so much as our natives do today."

Dr. Eleanor Allan suggested that something of real value should be done for our native population to mark the centenary celebrations. My plan is to start a mission out from the railway line, say 150 to 200 miles west of Adelaide, in the Musgrave Ranges, and south-east of the great aboriginal reserve. To rid this so-called reserve of financially interested whites, and to give the natives in it would be outpost work of the scheme suggested by me.

"If a centenary is put into operation at least towards the salary of an approved Christian medical missionary, who has had anthropological training."

"It is not only the soul of the native that needs attention, it is the whole man, and whoever takes up the work will have to learn the language and understand the ways of the people whom whom he is placed."

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FIFTY YEARS AGO

From "The Advertiser" March 23, 1885

AS University scholars for 1885 the board of examiners has decided to recommend to the council Messrs. D. H. Hollidge, R. D. W. Haywood, and W. Proxime accessit, A. F. Joyce and R. B. Andrews.

Dr. L. W. Linn has been appointed honorary dermatologist at the Parkside Mental Hospital.

FILMS OF NATIVE LIFE

Showers To Be Provided At Hermannsburg

Everyday native life in Central Australia is being shown at the Institute Building, North terrace, last night in connection with the Hermannsburg Mission appeal. Professor J. C. Jenkinson, president of the Museum Ethnologist (Mr. N. B. Tindale) explained the films. Pastor Albrecht, the head of the mission, spoke after the films had been shown.

"The people you have just seen were covered with grease, ashes and dust and their clothes were filthy. They may have appealed to your tastes," he said. "But I can tell you that under their gross and filthy appearance, they have humane feelings the same as anybody else."

The mission aimed to keep the natives in their own natural surroundings, as they had lived before the white men came, he said. At the mission station, however, there were many native ways of doing familiar European ways. In the hot summer days, even drinking water was scarce, and there was very little for washing purposes. But the response to the water would mean a good supply of water in future, as he had decided to install a number of showers for their use. He had bought the fittings from the Scout camp at Frankston, Victoria, and the process of the evening would be used to provide the showers.

Pastor Albrecht will leave for Laura today, and go on to Hermannsburg next week.

The films shown were taken by Mr. Tindale and Mr. Hackett during the last year's range. They were taken by the Anthropological Research at the University and the Museum. The scenes were taken in the country about the Stuart Range. Mr. Tindale said that natives going about their normal business of hunting, preparing food, eating, and sleeping, were shown. There was no posing on the part of the actors, since none of them understood that his picture was being taken.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Adult Classes To Begin On April 1

Enrolments are now being received for the 39 adult educational classes and study circles of the Workers' Educational Association, which will begin at the Adelaide University, and at Port Adelaide, Largs, Glenelg, and Colonel Light Gardens on April 1 and following days.

The secretary of the W.E.A. (Mr. C. McIlraith) said yesterday that enrolments could be handed to those in charge of the various study circles at the beginning of their courses.

Tutors appointed to take charge of the tutorial and lecture classes and study circles for this year are as follows: - Professor W. E. Cooke (former professor of astronomy at the Sydney University), Dr. C. T. Madigan (lecturer in geology and mineralogy at the University of Adelaide), Dr. W. Fenwick (lecturer in physical chemistry at the University of Adelaide), Dr. A. Grenfell Price (Master of St. Mary's College, North Adelaide), lecturer in physics at the University of Adelaide, Mr. M. L. Mitchell (lecturer in biochemistry and general science at the University of Adelaide), Mr. E. G. Biaggi (tutor in charge of the tutorial classes of the W.E.A.), Miss E. Morris (tutor in English literature at Adelaide), Mr. G. D. Burnett, Mr. D. P. McGuire, Miss M. H. Shi, C. Crumpton (assistant tutor at the University of Adelaide), Mr. H. G. Oliphant, the Rev. Principal E. S. Kiek, Messrs. M. J. Edgerley, Mr. C. B. Badger, Miss M. Allen, Mr. C. R. Cress, Mr. H. Womersley (entomologist at the Museum), Miss C. M. Wardley, Mr. H. Mann, Dr. W. A. Ryan, Mr. H. H. Barton, Mr. F. G. F. K. Barton, R. P. Newman, O. Nieherlin, the Rev. Wilfred J. Ryan, Mr. H. H. Barton, Mr. H. G. Oliphant, Mr. N. B. Tindale, an ethnologist at the Museum), and Mr. E. H. W. Packer.

The following will be as follows: - English literature, economics, English language, psychology, French literature, economic theory, Australian history, general anthropology, geology, astronomy, physics, chemistry, dietetics, geology, zoology, choral singing, public speaking, entomology, botany, modern European literature, geology, international affairs, growth of modern socialism, three European dictators, life and work of man.

The W.E.A. is lending library of more than 5,000 books.