

Adv 26.6.35

N.S.W. COURT PROCEDURE

Proposed Changes In Line With Other States

The proposal, mentioned in "The Advertiser" recently, to replace a large part of the present procedure of the Supreme Court of New South Wales by what is known as the judicature system will, if carried out, bring that State into line with England, the rest of the Australian States, and most of the British Empire. The old English systems of Common Law and Equity, for centuries administered side by side by the Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas, and the Court of Chancery, respectively, were used by the Judicature Acts of 1873 and 1875, the combined system being administered indifferently by either Court in practice, for convenience, certain cases are dealt with by the appropriate division, but what is now the High Court of Justice, embracing the older Courts. In the colonies, law and equity were administered separately by the Supreme Courts until recently, when they were empowered to fuse the systems, which was done in South Australia in 1878.

"Remove Technical Pleadings"

Professor A. B. Campbell, professor of law at the University of Adelaide, said that as far as he could see it was an attempt to introduce some of the provisions of the Judicature Acts of 1873 into the system were substantially introduced it would result in the removal of technicalities of pleadings, but it was a step which would result in a reduction of costs. The increase of interlocutory proceedings would necessarily be greatly increased, and proved certain further expenses. In practice the technical pleadings used at present in New South Wales are not disadvantageous, as they required a thorough study of a case before beginning proceedings. The proposed reforms would be a step towards the criminal law. He did not think there would be any alterations which could be readily adopted here.

Mr. Herbert Mayo, K.C., said that the administration of equity in New South Wales resembled the system in England before the Judicature Acts of 1873-5. The earlier steps taken in England to bridge the gap between the common law and equity were copied in New South Wales by the Common Law Procedure, and Equity, Acts, but the general provisions were not so complete. Hence when questions of common law arose in an equity suit, it was a matter of course to decide them in equity. But in equity suits, where the equity arose in a common law action, it was common for a judge in the equity jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to appoint a referee, who was to hear a party from proceeding before another judge of the same court in its common law jurisdiction. The referee, who was now used to the administration of law and equity in one court, it seemed absurd to have that court divided into more or less watertight compartments as in New South Wales. It would be regarded by legal men here as retrogressive to go back to a system of separate jurisdictions.

"Long While Asleep"

Another leading Adelaide lawyer said that Sydney had been for a long while in the lead in the fusion of law and equity was accomplished in England in 1873, in Victoria in 1875, in South Australia in 1878, and in the rest of the States and New Zealand at various dates. The whole juristic world could not understand the delay of New South Wales in hitting the world-wide advance of juristic ideas by retaining the old system. The fusion undoubtedly had great difficulties, but they could not be compared with the difficulties existing in the old idea of two separate juristic systems which came frequently in conflict. The present idea was really one of making the juristic plain open to amateurs. It had not always excluded, but sometimes they came more complex. But on the whole it had made law more accessible to the layman, and more or less abolished the technical rule, which he did the client escape because of the ingenuity of his counsel, but there had grown up a great body of procedure which vindicated justice in the popular sense. New South Wales had long been inferior in making this improvement; she would make obsolete by the adoption of this system, which would be a step towards technical law, which, on the whole, would be to her advantage.

TRANSMUTATION OF THE ELEMENTS

Lecture By Professor Kerr Grant

At the first of the three public lectures on "Transmutation of the Elements" at the University last night, Professor Kerr Grant, professor in physics at the University of Adelaide, gave a lecture on the earlier electron-proton theory of atomic constitution of atoms, and of the chief line of experimental investigation interwoven with that theory. Much interesting was shown in the modern experiments which the professor and his assistants revealed.

Professor Kerr Grant said that the idea of transmuting one sort of matter into another—especially of transmuting the baser metals into gold—was a very ancient one. Out of the atomic theories of the medieval alchemists, modern chemistry emerged with its clear-cut distinction between elements and compounds. The atomic theory of Dalton assumed definite specific characters and especially weight to each kind of atom; the laws of chemical combination were thus completely explained. The problem of transmutation was now seen to involve the conversion of one kind of atom into another—an apparent negation of Dalton's postulate. Nineteenth century chemists proved that the number of atoms in a reaction was strictly limited, and Mendeleev and others showed how the elementary kinds of atoms varied from 1 to 8.

By his first exhibit, Professor Kerr Grant showed that electricity and heat were originally considered as two distinct conditions, though related; electricity was regarded as an infinitely divisible fluid. Electrical energy was shown to be produced by circles and presumably atoms could be electrically charged though normally neutral. The first showed ionisation by flame; the second showed the effect of rarefying gas on the nature of the electric discharge with special reference to the cathode-rays or electron-beam; the third showed magnetic deflection of electron beams, and also cathode-ray oscillograph with mass and charge of electrons, and the fourth was Millikan's experiment on the electron.

"All ordinary physical and chemical properties depend upon the outer systems of valence electrons," said Professor Kerr Grant. "The chemical valency depends upon the number in the outermost group or shell, varying from 1 to 8. Stripping off one or more of these outer electrons completely alters the chemical and physical properties, but does not affect the nucleus, which picks up the lost electrons at the first opportunity and becomes a normal, neutral atom. The nucleus has a stable or permanent life exceeding that of its attendant satellites. Yet it, too, must be composite of at least two different kinds of elementary particles: for it is characterised not by one but by two numbers. The first expressive atomic number of an element is the number of protons, and the second, the most obvious supposition is to assume that these two elementary particles are the proton and the electron, with the former in the excess necessary to give it its charge of positive electricity.

Professor Kerr Grant stated that more remarkable was the existence of another kind of hydrogen atom, the heaviest of discoveries which belonged to an Adelaide man—Dr. Mark Oliphant, of Cambridge. That triple weight hydrogen atom (tritium) was present to the extent of less than one part in millions in ordinary hydrogen. Nothing was yet known of its properties.

In the two lectures to follow—on Tuesday next and on July 9—Professor Kerr Grant will present further and more important results of recent researches in the field of atomic physics, leading up to and including the discovery and development of methods of transmuting atoms species into atoms of a different and usually hitherto unknown species.

Nail 22/6/35

UNIVERSITY DEBATE ON LIQUOR

Clergyman And Hotelkeeper Lead Teams

Prohibition of liquor was debated at the Adelaide University last night, when the Rev. Frank Lake, Principal of Wesley College, North Unley, and Mr. M. Nooran, licensor of the Southern Cross Hotel, each led a team of students in a debate arranged by the University Men's Union.

The consumption of alcoholic liquor in Australia should be prohibited," was the subject, and, when a vote was taken, there was a big majority against prohibition.

Mr. Lake said that prohibition was the first line of defence against drugs. Alcohol was no food for athletes. It caused men to make fools of themselves and a large section of the community was against drink.

Mr. Nooran asked whether Australia could afford prohibition. If prohibition was introduced, the Federal Government would lose £10,000,000 annually in excise and customs. More than £500,000 in licence fees would be lost, and 90 per cent of the barley growers in South Australia would be ruined. Wine produced in South Australia amounted to 3 million gallons; of this more than 4,000,000 gallons was produced by Adelaide.

Mr. T. J. Broadhead, one of the students, dealt with the social and economic evil of drink. Alcohol, he said, impaired man's productive output and prohibition increased the efficiency of labor.

Others who took part in the debate were Messrs. F. Madden (affirmative), O. E. Nichterlein and T. H. McFarlane (negative).

Mr. F. W. Mitchell

of the Adelaide Teachers' Training College, who has been chosen by the committee of vice-chancellors of Australian universities to be the holder of the Carnegie Scholarship to the Institute of Education, London. Mr. Mitchell is the holder of a B.Sc. degree and a first-class honors B.A. in philosophy from the Adelaide University. He was for several years a State champion hurdler.

News 26/6/35

University Students Visit Mt. Bold

A party of 30 engineering students from the Adelaide University visited the Mount Bold Reservoir works today. They were conducted by the professor of engineering (Prof. R. W. Chapman) and Mr. R. Robinson.

Parties from the University have visited the reservoir at intervals of six weeks since construction began.

Adv 27.6.35

Transmutation of Atoms From "Occultists"

The lecture by Professor Kerr Grant on this subject is of interest not only to physicists but to students of occult chemistry. A knowledge of the construction of matter, of the solar system, and of the universe, as revealed by occultism, should be at the back of the mind of every physical scientist. The underlying principles of the microcosm are the same as those found in the macrocosm. "The Indian sages had the same basic principles as the infinitely great. Orthodox science confirms this by the statement that the atom is a solar system in miniature. The underlying nature of the universe is a unity, but it contains within itself a duality which is reflected throughout everything in nature, positive and negative, light and dark, good and evil, male and female. The old alchemists worked from within, outwardly, whereas scientists today experiment from without to the within."

Mr. R. C. L. Bosworth, who left Adelaide University in 1934 to enter the scientific research laboratories at Trinity College, Cambridge, has obtained the University Organist (Mr. John Horner) to play the allegro maestoso from Handel's "Water Music" with the effect, to which resourceful registration was played in the study. Dr. Bosworth will continue his spondee in scientific research work at Cambridge.

Adv 28/6/35

ORGAN MUSIC AT ELDER CONSERVATORIUM

Lunch-Hour Recital

At his recital on the Elder Hall instrument during the lunch hour yesterday the University Organist (Mr. John Horner) played the allegro maestoso from Handel's "Water Music" with the effect, to which resourceful registration was played in the study. Dr. Bosworth will continue his spondee in scientific research work at Cambridge.

NO AWARD FOR JUDGE MURRAY ESSAY

After having considered a report by Mr. J. W. Wainwright, who judged the six essays made last March for the Judge Murray essay competition, the Council of the Institute of Public Administration has decided to make no award. The competition was for an essay constituting an important contribution to man's productive output, and the prizes offered were £10 10s and a medal.

News 28.6.35

Deputy at Examination Is Found Out

LONDON, June 27.—An attempt to pass a Bachelor of Science degree by employing a deputy to sit for the examination at London University was revealed when a man hesitated about where to sit in the examination room.

The real candidate had sat on the previous day, and should have known his seat. The supervisor became suspicious, and questioned the impostor, who later confessed. The candidate has been prohibited from ever sitting for the degree.

Adv 29.6.35

ABORIGINES ENQUIRY BOARD

The members of the Federal board which is enquiring into alleged ill-treatment of aborigines, comprising Professor J. B. Murdoch of Adelaide University, the Assistant Chief Protector of Aborigines (Mr. V. J. White), and the secretary of the Aborigines' Friends' Association (Rev. J. H. Sexton), met at Parliament House yesterday. Professor Cleland said later that the evidence was not so complex and the board would proceed with the preparation of the report for the Federal Government.

Plaque For University.—At its meeting yesterday the Council of the University of Adelaide accepted a plaster plaque of the late Madame Curie. It was presented to the physics department of the University by the headmaster of the Thebarton Technical High School (Mr. A. G. Painle). The plaque was the work of one of his senior students, M. W. Stainke.