RESEARCH WORK FOR EVERYBODY.

In the course of a lecture on "Modern medicine" at the annual meeting of the microscopical section of the Royal Society of South Australia, Dr. W. W. Garvey, who was present, said it had been difficult to imagine that an animal could be made to live and reproduce itself without the aid of its natural food. It was a common observation that the number of people cured of the disease of diabetes was increasing. The treatment of diabetes, however, had failed. The point was, what could be done to cure diabetes in human beings? The research of Professor W. G. Baker, who had shown that with the aid of the microscope one could study the structure of the pancreas and the blood vessels of the body, was of great importance in this connexion. The possibilities of the treatment of diabetes and cancer were of great interest.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

The Budget speech and the Estimates indicate that the State government is not disposed immediately to respond to urgent applications for funds and land to allow of the extension of the University. The Ministry proposes to delay the establishment of departments which the Assembly is expected to initiate concerning the best methods of making available to deserving students the facilities for higher education. The Minister for Education, Mr. Kean, has been informed that the government has decided to establish the South Australian microscopical society to undertake some research, which might afterwards prove important.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY REQUEE.-

Mr. RYAN asked the Minister of Education, in reply to the recent deputation from the University Council, introduced by Mr. Ponder, asking for a grant of £17,000 and additional land, whether the Government had come to any decision on the matter.

The Minister of Education, Mr. Kean, replied: "The grant was held over for the time being owing to the war, and the University must make provision for the compensation of the students who have been affected by the war before the House can be expected to allocate additional land." The Minister also stated that a great deal remains to be done before the class of students whom Mr. Ryan has in mind will be enabled satisfactorily to step across the intellectual gulf which divides the primary school from the University; and the Government must make provision for the comparatively few ambitious boys and girls who can or cannot take the full course also for the great mass of young people endowed with merely ordinary abilities, who, nevertheless, are capable of substantial advantage in the State's destiny, separation, to amend the Act of 1914 which has been moulded. In an able and well-reasoned address in the Assembly Mr. Conshey stated:—"A crying need in South Australia is the organization and the development of technical education. In this way, we lag behind all the other States of South Australia, and it is high time we came to the conclusion that the Government policy with regard to High Schools and Technical Schools will be embodied in a Bill which I hope to place before the House in the near future."

For one thing, the proposed legislation should aim at bringing all schools of mines and industries directly under the control of the Education Department, and that the principle of technical education will be founded where they appear to be needed, and the re-engagement of Professor Lawrie in the Government service suggests an indication of the recognition of the advantages of expert agricultural training. Wasteful duplication and overlapping will apparently be avoided, and the co-ordination of authority under the Government will enable the Government to pass the young people from the primary schools into institutions where their mental faculties and physical powers will be developed along utilitarian lines. It would seem that this is the time that learning and culture can be properly acquired in the University only. That noble institution should exist to keep the standards of culture and scholarship at the high level that is the present and the future of human beings. As a result, the State will reap more substantial gains from its outlay on education than it has ever done yet. The example set in this direction by other nations is a powerful argument for the Government to introduce reforms which will increase all round the practical intelligence and industrial capacity of its people.

Recognition of the value of secondary schools naturally emphasises the need for the University as a centre of enlightenment, a repository of knowledge and a source of moral and intellectual influence. The Minister of Education forcefully said:—"The University should cover the whole field of human knowledge, and be able to take its students to the very frontier of acquired knowledge in any subject." He recognised the work of the professorial staff in Adelaide, and admitted that the usefulness and influence of the University demand attention, and it is well to be reminded that a large accession of new students would involve the engagement of a more numerous staff and more extensive accommodation and equipment. Absentees would not necessarily increase the number of students: but, as Mr. Conshey realizes, mere numbers would not necessarily be proofs of progress. Evidently, the Government is not yet prepared to support the idea of making higher education really free. Such a step might create a burden which the State cannot afford to meet. This is a matter which requires some important considerations.