

RESEARCH WORK FOR EVERYBODY.

In the course of a lecture on "Modern methods of medicine" on Tuesday evening at the annual meeting of the microscopical section of the Royal Society of South Australia, Dr. W. Ray (ex-Rhodes Scholar and at present Phillip Walker student in pathology) said he thought there was no disease that was incurable. An animal could be made to kill itself, and he considered an animal could be made to heal itself. The man who worked with the microscope was the man who was going to complete the work of discovery in that direction. The research of Professor Scott, of Oxford, had shown that with the aid of the microscope one would be able to micro-chemically analyse living matter. If the constitution of such matter could be determined at the moment before life passed from it the possibility of self-healing would be settled. The present problems were consumption and cancer. It was common knowledge that the number of people cured of the former disease was increasing. The treatment by bacteria had failed. The point where it had failed had slipped away from them, simply because, although the memoirs of the late Professor Koch were almost complete, there were several details in the technique missing, and others were not able to follow in his footsteps. Cancer also would be curable. He did not say that because he wished to appear optimistic, but he had seen it demonstrated in Denmark that the disease had been cured by serum. Every man, whether he indulged in science in an elementary or an advanced fashion, should be a research man. There were plenty of subjects in all branches of science that might be settled, and it was not the brilliant man, but the one who worked hardest, that would settle them. Every one should seek to finalize a point so that it should never need investigating again. Professor Koch, who recently died in Germany, was originally a country medical practitioner, and did the best part of his bacteriological work when miles from a laboratory. It was not until he was up in years that he became connected with Berlin University. Germany had become the foremost country as regarded scientific research, but unfortunately commercialism had entered into the work, and laboratories were competing against each other. He thought a desire was growing up in the other leading countries to stop the investigations of questions time after time, and to reduce the amount of literature on them by 90 per cent, so that their work might be simplified. He hoped the South Australian microscopical section would undertake to settle some point, which might afterwards prove important.

Register, Sep 26, 1910

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY REQUES...

Mr. RYAN asked the Minister of Education, referring 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 (Hon. F. W. Coneybeer) said the matter of the grant was held over for the time being owing to the fact that there was a motion before the House for the appointment of a select committee to deal with matters concerning the University. He expected that the motion would be carried.

Register, Sept 26

Dr. W. Ray, son of Mr. W. Ray, of Adelaide, the South Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1907, and at present Phillip Walker student in pathology at Oxford University, is spending a holiday in his native State. Dr. Ray, who is an old student of St. Peter's College and the Adelaide University, was associated at Oxford with Professors Osler and Dreyer in original research work, and is at present engaged in some important physiological experiments with Professor Dreyer. Dr. Ray will leave on his return to England in three or four weeks.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the council was held on Friday. On the recommendation of the education committee the statutes of the John Howard Clark Scholarship were amended, provision being made for a prize to be awarded in the first instance and a scholarship subsequently. The amended statutes were approved for submission to the Senate. On the recommendation of the Faculty of Music and the education committee it was resolved to include theory of music as a subject for the primary public examination. Reports of the various faculties and boards recommending the appointment of additional examiners for the degree and diploma examinations in November next were adopted. On the recommendation of the Board of Commercial Studies the following scale of marks for the Fisher Medal were approved:—Accountancy, 300; economics, 300; banking, 150; commercial law, 150; commercial geography, 150; business practice, 80. Messrs. J. & N. Tait wrote stating that they were unable to obtain either the Exhibition or the Town Hall for a concert by Madame Calve on October 12, and asked that the council would grant the use of the Elder Hall for the purpose. It was resolved that the Messrs. Tait be informed that the council made it a strict rule not to let the Elder Hall for public purposes. In accordance with a request from Mr. W. Howchin it was resolved that the examination in mining geology be held on October 4, and in geology, part I., on October 19 and 21. A letter was read from Mr. A. C. V. Melbourne in regard to the formation of a military corps of University students. The council expressed hearty sympathy with the movement. The report of the joint Board of the University and School of Mines in regard to the admission of students and lectures in ordressing was approved. Details of subjects for degree and diploma courses in 1911 were submitted by the several faculties and boards. The council directed that the details of subjects lie on the table for a month.

Register, Sept Oct. 10

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 propose to await the result of investigations which the Assembly is expected to initiate concerning the best methods of making available to deserving students the facilities for higher education. Providing that the enquiry which Mr. Ryan seeks shall be conducted by thoroughly qualified men, without reference to politics, the public will welcome it. Meanwhile the Government, while acknowledging the incalculable value of the University as a factor in the national life, considers that its own particular duty at present is to endeavour to perfect the system of primary instruction, and to establish a sound system of technical and secondary education. 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 not only for the comparatively few ambitious boys and girls exceptionally talented, but also for the great mass of young people endowed with merely ordinary abilities, who, nevertheless, are capable of substantially affecting the State's destiny, especially if their characters are rightly moulded. In an able and well-reasoned address in the Assembly Mr. Coneybeer remarked:—"A crying need in South Australia are the organization and the extension of technical education. In this way, we lag behind all the other

States of South Australia, and it is high time to try and recover our position. The Government's 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. New institutions for imparting technical knowledge will be founded where they appear to be needed, and the re-engagement of Professor Lowrie in the Government service suggests an intention also to extend widely 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 children naturally to pass from the primary schools into institutions where their mental faculties and physical powers will be developed along utilitarian lines. It would be a mistake to foster the idea 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 as high as possible, and its beneficent influences should permeate the whole community; but the educational uplifting of the rising generation must be accomplished chiefly by secondary schools in direct contact with boys and girls, and offering them the certain opportunity of self-improvement. When suitable provision shall have been made for carrying the system of primary instruction to a more advanced and useful stage the State will reap more substantial gains from its outlay on education than it has ever yet done. The example set in this direction by other nations is a powerful incentive to South Australia to introduce reforms which will increase all round the practical intelligence and industrial capacity of her people. If boys and girls are wisely helped and guided during the critical period between the ages of 14 and 18 years, their whole after life may be most beneficially affected. The safety, stability, and progress of the State rest on true education. Recognition of the value of secondary schools naturally emphasizes the need for the University as a centre of enlightenment, a storehouse of knowledge, and a searcher after truth. The Minister of Education forcefully says:—"The University should cover the whole field of human knowledge, and be able to take its students to the very frontier of acquired knowledge on every subject." He recognised the work of the professorial staff in Adelaide, and admitted that the usefulness and influence of the University demand attention. 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. Abolition of fees would result in a considerable increase of students; but, as Mr. Coneybeer realizes, mere numbers would not necessarily be proofs of progress. Evidently, the Government is not yet ready to promise support to the idea of making higher education entirely free. Such a step might create a burden which the State cannot add to other heavy educational obligations. But the desire to reach the ideal of free education in all its grades is perceptibly growing, because the popular conception of a university has changed. "University education," wrote Sir Norman Lockyer a few years ago, "is no longer regarded as the luxury of the rich, which concerns only those who can afford to pay heavily for it. . . ."