

Register July 29<sup>th</sup> 08.

Advertiser July 29<sup>th</sup> 08.

MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

An extraordinary meeting of the association will be held at the Lyric club rooms on Saturday next, when the following motions will be moved by Mr. H. S. Furness:—(a) That members of this association shall not be permitted to be examiners in musical subjects at the Adelaide University or of any other examining body held responsible for the granting of certificates. (b) That as far as it can possibly be made effective, examiners at musical examinations shall be performers on the same kind of instruments as are the candidates they have under examination." Dr. E. Harold Davies will move:—"That this association abandon its opposition to the University's scheme of public examinations in music."

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Mr. R. D. Kleeman has won the Sudbury Hardyman Prize of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, worth £30, for original research in physics.

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ANOTHER "TOMMY WALKER" CASE.

A NATIVE'S CORPSE EXHUMED.

THE HEAD MISSING.

It is only a few years since the public were startled by the announcement that the body of a well-known aboriginal who had died at the hospital had been mutilated by a medical man, and that it had been divided into two parts, one part—the flesh—being buried, and the other—the skeleton—being forwarded to a leading anatomical authority in Glasgow. A full investigation into the circumstances was made by a special board of enquiry, but it was proved to the satisfaction of the board that there was no property in a body. The skeleton was transported for scientific purposes only, and no action was taken against the medical officer concerned.

There were rumors about town on Monday that a case resembling in some respects the historical Tommy Walker case had been brought to light, and that the police were taking action, having already had the body exhumed. There was a modicum of truth in the report, but it appears that the body was not cut up or mutilated to any great extent.

The rumor was that the corpse of a native who had died of pneumonia at the Adelaide Hospital had been exhumed last week in consequence of statements having been forwarded to the Government that the head had been removed before burial and a tin can or round bowl substituted for it and securely covered to escape notice when the coffin was closed down. A representative of "The Advertiser" spent Monday afternoon making enquiries, and found it exceedingly difficult to get at the facts of the case.

Mr. G. G. Martin (secretary to the Attorney-General) said it was reported to the Government recently that the body of a native which had been removed from the morgue at the Adelaide Hospital and buried at the West-terrace Cemetery had been mutilated after death and before burial. Enquiries had been made and the body had been exhumed. The head was missing. Mr. Martin added that no authority had been given for the removal of the head of the native, and searching enquiries were being made into the whole subject.

The matter was brought before the Hospital Board at the ordinary meeting on Monday, but in view of the decision in the Tommy Walker enquiry it was decided to take no action. The board recognised that the head had been retained as a pathological specimen for the benefit of medical students, and unless ordered or requested by the Government to make an enquiry into the matter the board will not deal with it further. It is understood that the skull of the native has been sent to the University medical school.

ALLEGED MUTILATION OF BODIES.

FURTHER UNPLEASANT RUMORS.

Unpleasant rumors were afloat in Adelaide last night to the effect that further exhumations of bodies buried in West-terrace Cemetery had revealed the fact that the corpses had been mutilated after death. This news will cause a great deal of public uneasiness, following, as it does, so closely upon the report in "The Advertiser" on Monday that the body of an aboriginal, exhumed, had been found minus the head, which, it was understood, had been sent to the University medical school. The report last night was to the effect that two graves had been opened at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, with the result that one coffin was found to be empty and the other contained only a few bones. Enquiry was made at the police-station at a late hour, but the officer on duty stated that he had no knowledge whatever of the matter. There is every reason to believe, however, that the report is well founded.

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ALLEGED MUTILATION OF A BODY.

The authorities have been informed that the head has been surreptitiously removed from the corpse of an aborigine which was taken from the Adelaide Hospital morgue and interred in the West Terrace Cemetery. An exhumation proved the accuracy of the report, and as no permission had been given for the removal of the head enquiries are being made as to who was responsible for the act. Reference was made to the matter at the latest meeting of the Hospital Board. It was stated that the skull had been used for pathological purposes at the University medical school, but it is probable that an investigation of the circumstances will be made. It is said that a tin was put in the coffin in place of the head.

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THE WEST-TERRACE EXHUMATIONS.

CYNICAL PROFESSOR WATSON.

"A ROBBER OF THE FIRST WATER."

Reference was made in "The Advertiser" on Wednesday to a rumor which gained currency on the previous evening to the effect that two exhumations had been conducted at the West-terrace Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, and that one coffin was found to be empty so far as human remains were concerned, and that the other contained only a portion of a body. Enquiries made on Wednesday elicited the information that there was no doubt as to the exhumations having taken place, but the Superintendent of Cemeteries (Mr. C. E. Owen Smyth) has not yet forwarded his report on the matter to the Attorney-General. Mr. Peake signed the orders for the reopening of the graves and examination of the contents of the coffins, and when he receives the official report he will cause an investigation to be made by the police.

In this instance only one of the bodies supposed to have been buried came from the Adelaide Hospital, the other having come from another public institution, but the members of the Ministry concerned (the Attorney-General and the Chief Secretary) were not in a position to give particulars as to the names of the victims or the results of the exhumations.

It was impossible to obtain information as to what led to the exhumations on Tuesday, but less difficulty was experienced in tracing the circumstances which induced Mr. Peake to sign the warrant for the exhumation of the native's body last week. Mr. F. Leak, the city missionary, made the report on which action had to be taken. A representative of "The Advertiser" interviewed Mr. Leak at his residence, Goodwood, on Wednesday evening, and in answer to questions that gentleman said—"I knew the aboriginal at Point Macleay, and when he was brought to the hospital I used to visit him. When the news of the poor fellow's death reached me I rang up the hospital to find out when the burial was to take place, as I wished to read the service, but there was considerable delay in letting me know, owing to an inquest having to be held. Late on the afternoon of last Monday week I received a message asking me to go to the cemetery to conduct the burial service, and when I arrived there several people were waiting for me, and the coffin was ready to be lowered into the grave. During the progress of the service I noticed that the gravedigger at the foot of the coffin was holding it easily with one hand, while the man at the head appeared to experience similar ease in lifting the casket with one hand. My suspicions were aroused. I felt convinced that there was something wrong—that the coffin did not contain the body, and that I might be reading the religious service over a bundle of rags or wood instead of over a human body. Immediately after the burial I went to the office of the curator (Mr. Mildred) and said, 'I am supposed to have buried a man, but I question whether I have done so. I don't think there is a body in that coffin.' He asked why I was suspicious, and I told him exactly what I had observed. He then asked me if I wanted to take action, and suggested that if I felt convinced there was no body in the coffin I should see Mr. Owen Smyth and tell him. I reported the matter to Mr. Smyth, and he said he would make an official report and write to me, but I have not received a letter from him. I saw by 'The Advertiser' yesterday that the head only was missing, and it is hard to believe that statement, because, although the native was a small man, the coffin was so light that it seems almost impossible it could have contained a complete corpse with the exception of the head. It is harder still to believe that material weighing heavier than a head was put in the coffin as you say. I don't know anything about the other exhumations. I told Mr. Smyth at the time that if there was no body and its removal had been legally carried out I had nothing more to say, but I do not like the idea of reading the religious service over a bundle of rags."

Professor Watson, when spoken to on the subject of the exhumations, said he knew nothing of the two cases which were the subject of investigation on Wednesday. When asked if he knew anything about the removal of the head from the corpse of the native, he replied, "Yes, I stole the head for the education of my students, who would not know half as much as they do about the human body if I had not proved myself a robber of the first water. There has been no secret about the matter, except that the medical superintendent did not see me take it. We must have specimens for the students. How are we going to teach them to do things if we cannot show them the way to do them? We cannot show them the way if we have not specimens. When I took the head I obtained a cracked pot from the hospital and fixed a splendid nose and forehead on it, and put it in position in the coffin. It was covered with brown paper, and if I had had some lamp black to color it you would hardly have known it from a real head. I understand the parson who made the report said his suspicions were aroused by the lightness of the coffin. That is rather a surprise to me, because I put so much coke in with the artificial head that I was afraid the bottom of the coffin would fall out. Tell me how am I to show my students how to deal with accidents to the skull or limbs, or to operate for appendicitis or other troubles, if I have not got something to work on. The public would not be satisfied with doctors who got their experience from books only. They must have practical training."

The Chief Secretary has called for a report from the Hospital Board with relation to the case of the native and when the Attorney-General receives Mr. Smyth's report he will order an investigation by the police in regard to the other cases.

A DWARF'S BODY MISSING.

It has been ascertained that one of the exhumations that took place on Tuesday afternoon revealed that an exchange of dead bodies had been made prior to the burial. Some time ago the body of a dwarf, who died at an Adelaide institution, was supposed to have been buried, but when the coffin was taken up it was found that it had been replaced by part of the body of a full-grown person. The undertakers who carried out the funeral are reticent over the matter.