

Register, April 27/1911

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## ADELAIDE HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

### THE PATHOLOGICAL BLOCK.

At a meeting of the Adelaide Hospital Board on Monday the following report by the Chairman (Mr. W. G. Coombs) was adopted and ordered to be sent to the Chief Secretary:—

Any one acquainted with the provisions made for the pathological department at hospitals elsewhere can but be dissatisfied at the inadequate accommodation, and the unsatisfactory conditions which exist at our own Hospital. Some time ago I brought this matter under the notice of the Chief Secretary, with the result that Mr. Wallis induced the Premier (Mr. Verran) to pay a visit to the Hospital in company with myself. I took the opportunity to point out what I regarded as necessary to place the pathological department of our Hospital on a proper basis; at the same time I explained to the Ministers the conditions existing in other places. The Premier and the Chief Secretary were sympathetic, both expressing their willingness to assist the board in making such conditions and improvements as would put this department of our Hospital work beyond reproach. The Premier instantly consented to my request that a draftsman should be told off to accompany me to Melbourne and Sydney, to examine closely the provisions made in the pathological departments of the hospitals of those two States. The outcome of the visit of the Ministers was that I visited Melbourne and Sydney last week, accompanied by Mr. F. C. Krichauff (chief draftsman in the Public Buildings Department). In Melbourne we visited the Yarra Bend Morgue, the General Hospital, St. Vincent's, and Prince Alfred Hospitals, and made a thorough inspection of them all. We met a most cordial reception from the residents of the abovementioned hospitals, also from Professor Allen, of the Melbourne University, who gave us a great deal of information which was of the utmost value. We next proceeded to Sydney and met Professor Welsh, who very generously devoted two afternoons to aid us in making enquiries into the subject in which we were interested. We visited the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, where the latest and most modern pathological buildings in the Commonwealth are to be found. Dr. Jamieson (Pathologist of the Sydney Hospital) also gave us a great deal of his valuable time, and explained with minuteness the arrangements of his institution. I found their advice of the greatest assistance to me in formulating the scheme, which I wish to recommend to the board. This plan, which I am to lay before you, for recommendation to the Government, has been submitted to the gentlemen named above, and met with their heartiest approval and commendation, and I do not hesitate to say that if these recommendations are carried into effect, we shall have at the Adelaide Hospital the finest pathological department in Australia. (I may mention here, in passing, that in the hospitals of Melbourne and Sydney, committees are at this moment at work devising schemes and plans for bringing their pathological departments completely up to modern requirements.) The scheme I am now recommending provides for slightly more accommodation than I outlined in my previous recommendation, but my visit to the eastern States, and the conference with the experts there, have led me to the conclusion that the more generous scheme will be the wiser one. In this direction I was largely influenced by the opinions expressed by Professor Welsh, who was strongly of the opinion that we should make provision for preparing diseased organs from the post-mortem room for further examination. We considered this to be absolutely necessary in many cases, as unprepared organs might suffer damage in removal, and the physician or surgeon examining an organ so damaged would have difficulty in determining the cause of death, and from using in a position to apply this knowledge to other similar cases. It is sometimes necessary for diagnosis, and for future treatment, that a preliminary bacteriological examination should be made before the organs are removed from the body. For this purpose gas should be laid on for sterilizing by Bunson burners in the post-mortem room, and in the small room adjoining it. It is of the utmost importance if we are to have thoroughly modern arrangement and equipment that no money should be wasted in construction, and I therefore most strongly recommend that the buildings be not of an elaborate and costly nature. We do not need to build for all time, and as we are contemplating the erection of a new hospital, economy must be practised, and no funds wasted in construction. I cannot speak too highly of the assistance given to me by Mr. Krichauff. He entered into the spirit of the enquiry, and the plan which I have finally decided to recommend to the board is largely the result of his interest in the question under investigation and his skill as a draftsman.

The report is accompanied by notes on the construction and furnishings of buildings referred to.

## THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

### LEADER LEAVES ENGLAND SHORTLY.

LONDON, April 28.

Dr. Douglas Mawson, of Adelaide, who has been visiting England in the interests of the Australian expedition, which he intends to lead to the antarctic, will leave London on his return to Australia on May 10.

Dr. Mawson hopes to take his departure for the south pole in November, with a scientific party, to investigate the 2,000 miles of coast which lie nearest to Australasia, and which are expected to yield valuable results.

Sir Ernest Shackleton has been doing all he can to help his comrade in exploration. "I only wish I could go too," said Sir Ernest recently. Between now and November there is a great deal to be done, but Dr. Mawson will be well up to time with his arrangements. The gear for the expedition will be shown at the Festival of Empire before it goes to Australia. Then for nearly two years Dr. Mawson and his party will disappear. They hope to be back and to have all their records tabulated for submission to the British Association when it meets in Australia in 1914.

Capt. J. K. Davis, who commanded the Nimrod in the Shackleton expedition to the south polar regions will, with his ship, take part in the naval review to be held at Spithead in connection with the Coronation, and will then sail for the antarctic.

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## EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

### ENGLISH METHODS.

LONDON, April 27.

At the Imperial Education Conference Mr. Jackman (ex-President of the National Union of Teachers) advocated that arithmetic should not be taught to children of nine or 10, since problems which took months then to inculcate could be taught in three weeks at the ages of 11 and 12. The time thus saved could be devoted to reading.

The Western Australian Inspector-General (Mr. Andrews) said Mr. Jackman's system was in vogue in his State, and he was anxious to know why it had not been generally adopted in England.

The Rector of Montrose Academy (Mr. Strong) doubted the desirableness of co-education in secondary schools. In Scotland, for instance, girls matured more rapidly and overweighted boys from the ages of 12 to 15.

The New South Wales Director of Education (Mr. Peter Board, M.A.) said his State had adopted many features of the Scotch system, but it was not intended to have co-education in high schools.

## THE ANTARCTIC.

### EXPLORATION BY AIRSHIP.

LONDON, May 2.

The Danish Government have undertaken the purchase of fifty dogs in Greenland on behalf of Dr. Mawson, of the Adelaide University, for the use of his Antarctic exploration expedition. The dogs will be sent direct to Australia, where they will be picked up by the exploring ship on her way to the southern ice.

Dr. Mawson has arranged to take an aeroplane to the Antarctic. This will be selected by Mr. Grahame White, the famous English aeronaut, who is arranging the details connected with the matter.

### FEDERAL AID WANTED.

Melbourne, May 2.

A deputation, consisting of Professor Masson, Mr. Hunt (Commonwealth Meteorologist), and the Lord Mayor (Councillor Davey), waited on the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) to-day with a request for assistance from the Commonwealth Government for Dr. Mawson's projected Antarctic expedition. Professor Masson stated that in March they interviewed the Minister of External Affairs and asked for £20,000 on a pound-for-pound basis, the estimated cost of the expedition being £40,000, and it being proposed to raise £20,000 by public subscription. Mr. Batchelor said he would have to ask the Cabinet, and subsequently the Cabinet decided that the matter would have to come before Parliament in September. It was necessary to have £10,000 almost immediately for the purchase of a vessel and equipment. The total promises from the public amounted to between £6,000 and £7,000, but it would not be fair to take that money till there was a guarantee that the expedition would take place. If the Government would make some definite promise on the pound-for-pound principle they would be in a better position to approach the public than at present. They based their claim chiefly on the scientific work to be done, but incidentally there might be a possibility of mineral finds of unknown value, and there might also be valuable whale fisheries.

Mr. Hunt said the work of the expedition would throw considerable light on the question of general atmospheric circulation. Mr. Hughes said the Treasurer's advance account was exhausted, and there were no funds from which they could make an immediate advance. Parliament would not meet till the end of August, and it would be impossible to get an expression of opinion till the middle or the end of September. There would be a Cabinet meeting next week, and he would bring the question forward as one of urgency, and if his colleagues agreed, would cable the Prime Minister and Mr. Batchelor, who could confer with Dr. Mawson almost immediately after their arrival in London. He was heartily in favor of the Commonwealth doing something, and if it were possible it should be done at once.

### THE FILCHNER EXPEDITION.

#### SAILS ON MAY 7.

HAMBURG, May 2.

Grand Admiral Prince Henry of Prussia yesterday inspected the Deutschland, in which Lieutenant Filchner's party will proceed to the Antarctic, and her equipment. The vessel has taken on board supplies for 3½ years, and sails for Buenos Ayres en route to Antarctica, on May 7.

The party, in the event of encountering the Scott expedition, will exchange members and work in opposite directions.

### HELP FOR CAPTAIN SCOTT.

### THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUBSCRIPTION.

PRETORIA, May 2.

Including the grant made by the Union Government, the South African subscriptions toward the Scott expedition total £1,274.