

Reg. 27-2-20

DEGREES IN COMMERCE.

MUNIFICENT PROVISION AT LONDON UNIVERSITY.

LONDON, February 26.

In connection with the recent decision of the University of London to confer degrees in commerce, the trustees of the Sir Ernest Cassel Educational Trust have given £150,000 in order to endow several teaching posts and professorships; also £300,000 annually for at least five years for additional instruction in the principal Continental languages and in Arabic. Further, they have devoted £1,000 annually for at least five years for commercial students' travelling scholarships, and £1,000 for additional instruction in modern languages.

Reg. 28-2-20

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

A meeting of the council of the University was held on Friday, February 2. Present—The chancellor (His Excellency Sir George Murray), the vice-chancellor (Professor Mitchell), the Hon. F. S. Wallis, Messrs. G. Brookman, W. R. Bayly, T. A. Osterer, F. Cusplie, Dr. Poulton, Sir J. Verco, Professor Chapman, and Mr. H. B. Crosby.

The chancellor formally welcomed the recently appointed professors to the University, viz., Dr. F. Wood-Jones, Professor of Anatomy; Dr. T. B. Robertson, Professor of Physiology; Dr. J. C. Cleland, Professor of Pathology, and Dr. J. K. Wilson, professor of Mathematics. Dr. W. T. Hayward was reappointed to represent the University on the board of management of the Adelaide Hospital. The council adopted the report of the education committee submitting the revised regulations for the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery, recommending that Dr. Malcolm Scott be appointed lecturer in regional and surgical anatomy and that a demonstrator in anatomy be appointed to deliver a course of lectures and give demonstrations in anatomy to massage students and students of the B.D.S. course, appointing examiners for supplementary examinations, and submitting the scheme to the Department of Defence in regard to the training of future military medical officers, and syllabus for new courses of lectures in public health. The council also resolved to provide regulations for the degree of doctor of dental surgery. The recommendations of the Faculty of Science in regard to status to students and requisitions for apparatus were approved and the council resolved to form an additional evening class in applied mathematics, as suggested, provided that at least 10 students enrolled their names for the course and the certain other conditions were observed. The report of the finance committee in regard to the sale of Bartangunyah lands, printing of annual addresses, and the appointment of demonstrator in botanical laboratory was approved. The finance committee also reported that during the absence of the chairman of the finance committee in England Mr. S. Talbot Smith had been appointed deputy chairman. A letter was read from Professor Coleman Phillipson accepting the position of professor of law and stating that he hoped to be in Adelaide at the latest by the middle of March.

The chancellor reported that His Excellency Sir Henry Galway had presented to the council and the senate of the University a portrait of himself and a number of books. The gifts had been acknowledged with thanks prior to the departure of his Excellency from the State. Other items of departmental business were disposed of.

HOWLERS.

Reg. 28-2-20

In Local Examination Papers.

"Notes by Examiner" in connection with various public educational examinations conducted recently in Adelaide records many remarkable answers, especially to questions on historical and geographical subjects. The Primary papers show that in some cases the candidate had a very hazy idea of the origin of dew, fog, cloud, &c. Thus—"Dew is caused by a cold wind;" "dew is a light cloud that has floated down to the ground;" "moisture above the land gets frozen and falls on the earth in the form of dew;" "fog is caused by the pressure of the air;" "clouds are masses of sea." The electric

Ad. 5-2-20

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF FORESTRY.

For some few years the School of Forestry in connection with the University of Adelaide has been quietly training men, who finally graduate in forestry and other allied subjects, for the great work of broad scale forestry in Australia. The school has borne the burden of bad times, but with the assistance of some few friends who are gifted with vision it has been possible to continue its work. The result is that the graduates who have taken up forestry as their life's work have been in great demand in this, as well as in three of the other States. Several of the graduate foresters are doing excellent work in the east and west, under the newly-formed Forest Commissions, and men similarly qualified are being asked for. The University session will reopen in March, and in addition to South Australian students men are coming here to take the course from other States. The work of the University department of forestry is, however, much wider than simply the training of the foresters of the future, and for this State alone, inasmuch as many demands for assistance are made by those possessing forest country, and who are contemplating the growing of timbers on commercial lines, as well as by farmers who require help in establishing trees in areas not suitable for arable or grazing or other purposes. The work which is being carried out in the forest of Kuitpo is extensive, and the development of this young forest on commercial lines is being pushed to the greatest possible limit. Considerable experimental work in silviculture is being carried out, and the utilisation of forest products is increasing year by year. Modern methods have already transformed certain very unprofitable areas into highly promising woods, and these methods are being widely adopted in various parts of the State. During the year a large number of visitors, who are directly interested in timber and timber-growing, have inspected the forest of Kuitpo. An important and valuable collection of exhibits illustrating the application of local woods and forest products to the purposes of the industries of the State has been made, and visitors are cordially invited to inspect it at the department of forestry at the University.

Ad. 12-2-10

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

The Victorian Parliament last session passed a Bill authorising the expenditure of £175,000 on new buildings for the Melbourne University, where the accommodation is said to be utterly inadequate. On Monday the University council accepted a tender at £71,340 for a new Arts School.

Ad. 16-2-20

UNIVERSITY LECTURESHIPS IN LAW.

Following upon the appointment of Dr Coleman Phillipson to the Chair of Law at the University of Adelaide, certain arrangements were found to be necessary in the lectureships in that faculty. The Council, at its meeting on Friday, accordingly appointed the following lecturers:—Constitutional Law, Mr. R. J. Rudall, LL.B., B.Litt. (Oxon); Law of Wrecks, Mr. H. Thomson, LL.B., M.A. (Oxon); Evidence and Procedure, Mr. T. J. M. Napier, LL.B.; Private International Law, Mr. R. N. Finlayson, LL.B. Mr. Rudall is a graduate of the University, and was appointed Rhodes Scholar in 1908. He obtained the Degree of Bachelor of Literature at Oxford in 1911. His thesis for that degree dealt with the early history of South Australia, from the point of view of the constitutional lawyer. He saw four years active service, and was discharged in June, 1919. Mr. Thomson graduated LL.B. in 1909, and is a Stow Scholar. He was awarded the Rhodes Scholarship in 1910. He graduated M.A. at Oxford in 1918. He has had four years' military service. During part of that time he was Deputy Director of Education with the A.I.F. Messrs. Napier and Finlayson are also graduates in law at the Adelaide University, and have been associated with the law lecturing staff for several years.

Reg. 18-2-20

The Council of the University of Adelaide has awarded the Angas Engineering Exhibition to Richard Osborne Pomroye A. R. Shepley (resigned). This exhibition is of the annual value of £40 for three years, and is awarded on the results of the Higher Public Examination.

Moreover, it was Mr. Kennedy who performed sterling meteorological and magnetic work with the Mawson Expedition, and was appointed by the Carnegie Institute to do a magnetic survey of the whole of Australia, which was unfortunately interrupted when war broke out. As a mining engineer in the Tunnelers' Corps for four and a half years he also rendered valuable and gallant service at the front.

Such is a record that any State might be proud of, but not even a prophet or a brilliant servant seems to be honoured in this land!

Ad. 4-2-20

A TRAGIC DEATH.

PROFESSOR DIES IN A CHURCH.

Wellington, February 3. The Otago University to-day celebrated the jubilee of its foundation. The ceremonies were marred by a tragic occurrence. Professor Gilray, senior professor, was reading a Scripture lesson at the opening service in First Church, when he collapsed over the reading desk and died immediately. Professor Gilray was aged 69. He was appointed to the chair of English language and literature in 1890, after a brilliant career at Edinburgh.

Reg. 5-2-20

SOUTH AUSTRALIA LEADING STILL.

Two Outstanding Figures in Medical Science.

There are some foolish and short-sighted people, who can discern nothing admirable except it be at a distance; as though a man should stand knee-deep in a beautiful garden, spellbound by the spectacle of a neighbour's cabbage patch. When this characteristic appears in a man's attitude towards the State or country in which he lives, it takes on its most lamentable form; and, when the effects are not obviously harmful, it is a fit subject for mirth. The most notable product of this strange habit of mind is the poor patriot, the man who blindly and against all reason persists in denying honour to the prophets of his own country, and who fails down in adoration before the supposed excellence of far-away things, which are in fact vastly inferior to those all about him. South Australia probably has its full quota of the victims of this wide-spread human frailty—people who seem to regard as a direct challenge the favourable mention of anything worthy of admiration in their own State. They feel impelled to point at once to New South Wales or Victoria, to Western Australia or Queensland—perhaps to some distant country about which even school geographies are a little vague—in order to demonstrate that South Australia is behind the times, on the wrong track, misguided or misgoverned, as the case may be. The bare possibility of directing a ray of light into the gloom of such a mind, lends wings to a pen intent upon recording further instances of South Australian enterprise and progress. This State has led the way in many beneficent directions; and now may be seen in the forefront of Australian medical science, in at least two departments, the importance of which has been much emphasized by war conditions. In plastic surgery, the art of repairing facial damage inflicted by wounds, Col. Newland has no equal in the Commonwealth; and Col. Strangman's success in the treatment of cases of shellshock places him in the undisputed position of leader of all the Australian specialists in this difficult branch of remedial practice.

Col. Newland's Wonderful Work.— Whether or not this statement is overbold, may be judged by the proofs, by the plain facts relating to the activities of these two South Australian doctors. Something has already been made known concerning the work performed by Col. Newland in England. He had always been a surgeon of outstanding ability, and war work merely directed his skill along a special channel. In the face of his own professional reticence, one can but guess at the steps which elevated him to the position of one of the world's masters in the art of plastic surgery. It has probably been a conjunction of the occasion and the man. The need was obvious, and the means must have been found in an adaptation and extension of the most modern surgical practice. The demands made upon the best of British surgeons by the war were met in a way which would

have astonished the surgeons themselves a few years ago. Now, the demand for a new nose, or for the perfect repair of a shattered jaw, merely serves to stimulate the plastic surgeon's scientific zeal. It is difficult to imagine a facial injury which a man may survive which is not capable of repair by the new methods. Parts of the face may indeed have been blown away, and perhaps a large piece of the bone of one jaw is missing. The surgeon opens up the wound in such a case, and grafts into the jaw a section of bone of the required size and shape, obtained from the patient himself or from another human subject; and so the contour of the face is restored. If new skin is required, the operator secures a "flap" from the patient, and sews it into position.

New Noses.

In the construction of a new nose, the flap is generally cut from the forehead and turned down, but in many cases of reconstruction it is necessary to obtain it from the chest. This flap consists of more than skin, as the term is generally understood; it is the outer layer of tissue, and includes blood vessels and nerves; and, so that it may obtain nourishment in its new situation, it is necessary that it should retain communication with that part of the body from which it has been detached. For that reason it is not wholly detached at first, but is so shaped that it has a kind of tail forming a connecting link between itself and its former home. The distance from the seat of the injury to that part of the body from which the flap is cut, determines the length of this tail, or "pedicle," as it is technically termed. The pedicle nourishes the patch until it has become incorporated with its new surroundings, and is then cut away. It would be possible, if extremely inconvenient, to use a skin flap from a second patient, if the two men operated upon remained Siamese twins for the period necessary to admit of the incorporation of the patch. The degree of experience and skill necessary to be applied to surgical feats of this kind may be imagined; and it is further to be noted that a good deal of judgment is essential, for allowances must be made for shrinkage, and a new nose fashioned some sizes larger than it is intended it shall be eventually.

Patients from all over Australia.

Col. Newland did not return to South Australia until August of last year, but since that time the 7th Australian General Hospital at Keswick has been the scene of many remarkable facial transformations; and the proof of Col. Newland's outstanding ability in this branch of surgery is to be seen, not only in the remarkable results obtained, but in the fact that the 7th A.G.H. has become the one Australian hospital for the treatment of facial disfigurements. Cases come to Keswick from all over the Commonwealth; and, of the patients at present undergoing treatment there, the great majority are from other States. A similar statement might be made with almost equal truth regarding the work of Col. Strangman, who has performed wonders in hundreds of instances since his return from the front last July, and has cured men who had been vainly treated by experts in all parts of Australia. The Commonwealth military authorities have not recognised his work in quite the same way as in the case of Col. Newland. His interstate patients have come to him of their own accord, and have not been sent by the order of the Defence Department. One man who had failed to regain the use of one of his arms, despite the utmost efforts of a great many other medical men, travelled all the way from the Northern Territory to see Col. Strangman, and was cured. Col. Strangman's achievements so much impressed the Director-General of Medical Services (Gen. Cusacken), when he visited South Australia a few weeks ago, that now the South Australian has been summoned to Melbourne, and his work at Keswick has been taken over during his absence by Col. Fry. It has been suggested that Col. Strangman's success may lead to the re-examination in Victoria of many shellshock cases, which had been thought incurable; and it may be that a substantial reduction of the pensions bill will be the almost immediate result.

Shellshock.

Col. Strangman has proved himself capable of dealing with such a variety of cases, that an adequate indication of the nature of his work is not easy. "Shellshock" is a term which comprehends a great many disorders; but one of the main facts seems to be that purely functional conditions (part nervous and part mental) result in the disease of limbs or sets of muscles, and other physical faults. Col. Strangman's special anatomical knowledge and experience enable him to make a faultless diagnosis—to put his finger on the seat of the trouble, so to speak. Then the remedy is most often re-education of the patient in the use of those muscles which have lost their function, combined, perhaps, with massage and electrical treatment. It seems beyond question that, apart from his professional skill, Col. Strangman possesses a special personality which, among other things, inspires confidence in the patient, and for this reason he is specially fitted to lead a campaign to lessen the severity of one of the most complex and destructive residues of the war.