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is a member of the Central District Licensing Court, Magistrate of the Children's Court, Assistant Magistrate at the Adelaide Local and Police Courts, and Deputy Coroner. In recognition of his thesis on "The Origin and History of Suretyship," the Adelaide University last year conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws on him. The Rev. F. B. Hewitson, of the Burra, is the only son. Dr. Hewitson resides at Dulwich.

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### THE UNIVERSITY.

Attention is directed to a notice giving particulars of the new session at the University of Adelaide. To-day is the last day for enrolling and for payment of fees for the new term. Late entries can be received only on payment of late fee. Timetables of lectures are posted at the University, and full information in regard to all courses may be obtained on application at the Registrar's office.

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### Muriel Cheek.

Miss Muriel Cheek, of Adelaide, well remembered for her beautifully clear soprano voice, has been given an appointment on the staff of the Melbourne Conservatorium. Her artistry as a recitalist should make her a decided acquisition to the personnel. Miss Cheek studied at the Adelaide Conservatorium with distinction under Mr. Frederick Bevan, and sang at all the leading local concerts a few years ago. She was choir leader at Stow Church. During the war Miss Cheek helped the Red Cross Society with concerts, and was one of a quartet which included Mrs. Hugh Corbin, Miss Nora Kyffin Thomas, and Miss Kate Finlayson, and who raised a large sum for Red Cross funds. Miss Cheek went to Melbourne several years ago, and has continued her successful vocal career there.

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Mr. C. R. Hodge, Registrar of the Adelaide University, who has been on a holiday trip to Tasmania, returned by the express yesterday.

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## THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

### MR. MCCOY GOING ABROAD.

### MR. CHARLTON ACTING DIRECTOR.

The Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy), who will leave on Monday next:



Mr. W. T. McCoy.

For a trip to England, has been appointed an honorary commissioner to enquire into and report upon education matters abroad. The Superintendent of Primary Education (Mr. C. Charlton) has been appointed Deputy-Director of Education, at a salary of £700 per annum, and will have control of the department during the absence of Mr. McCoy.

Mr. T. H. Smeaton (secretary of the Public School Teachers' Union) writes:—"The fact that the Director of Education



Mr. C. Charlton.

is being sent by the State Government to represent South Australia at the Imperial Conference on Education, to be held in London in June, is a practical testimony to their belief that the Conference is a valuable aid in furthering matters of national importance. That the teachers also hold this view is evidenced by them in many ways, and on Friday evening, at the Price Hall, Grote-street, they have arranged to give public expression to it at a valedictory meeting to be held in honor of Mr. and Mrs. McCoy. The President of the Teachers' Union, Mr. T. H. S. Nicolle, will preside, and brief addresses will be delivered by representative teachers from all branches of the department. The Minister of Education (Hon. T. Pascoe) is expected to be present, as well as several ex-Ministers under whom Mr. McCoy has served. A general invitation has been issued to all teachers, and the wives of teachers, and the indications are that the meeting, which is sure to be interesting, will be largely attended."

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### South Australian Foresters.

The school of forestry at the Adelaide University, where Mr. Hugh Corbin, B.Sc., is the capable instructor, is sending out some brilliant graduates to train up young trees in the way they should go. The recent appointment of Mr. S. L. Kessell as Conservator of Forests in Western Australia, in succession to Mr. Lane Poole, is a case in point. He did much practical work at the Kuitpo Forest, and took his B.Sc. degree in forestry. Another former Adelaide student, now performing important duties in the western State, is Mr. Brockway, who is supervising the re-forestation of the Mundaring catchment area, covering some thousands of acres.

When the Mundaring Reservoir was built some years ago it was suspected that the trees were absorbing the moisture, and every one was rooted out. As a result, large accumulations of silt got into the reservoir, and it was decided to replant the whole area. Still another Adelaide "boy," at present in Western Australia, is Mr. T. N. Stoate, who has been "loaned" by the New South Wales Government to the department there for 12 months, to preach and practise the best principles, as taught by Mr. Corbin at the University. Both Mr. Stoate (who is also a B.Sc. of Adelaide) and Mr. Kessell went to the war.

One more twig in Adelaide's cap is the fact that Mr. S. McKay, formerly of this city, is carrying out district forest operations in Western Australia. There are also four or five of our graduates in New South Wales, including Mr. J. G. Roger, who is in charge of the South Coast Forest, and Mr. A. C. Shedley, supervising matters in the Bago State Forestry, amid the white expanses of Kosciusko. Both are Adelaide B.Sc.'s in forestry. It will be seen, therefore, that the school at the University, which hides its light behind the trees of the Kuitpo forest, has been a prolific little centre for spreading the gospel of afforestation.

### SYDNEY'S CONSERVATORIUM.

#### AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATES' CHANCES.

SYDNEY, February 28.

The New South Wales Minister for Education (Mr. Bruntnell) says that Australian candidates are not excluded from the position of Director of the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music. Applications received in Australia will be forwarded to the committee in London, and all applications will receive fair consideration, irrespective of the part of Empire from which they come.

## THE PRICKLY PEAR.

### Seeking Its Destruction.

### Professor Johnston's Work

Excellent work has been done recently by Professor Harvey Johnston, in research touching methods of destruction of prickly pear in Queensland and New South Wales. On Thursday, in company with his wife and family, the Professor arrived in Adelaide by the Melbourne express to take over his duties in the Adelaide University. He was appointed to the Chair of Zoology a year ago, but was released to continue his research work.

In 1911 Professor Johnston resigned from the Bureau of Microbiology in Sydney, where he was three years a colleague of Professor Cleland, and established the Department of Biology in the Brisbane University. In 1912-14 he was sent abroad by the Queensland Government, visiting most of the countries of the world to enquire into the possibility of controlling prickly pear, either by means of its natural enemies, or by means of the utilization of the



PROFESSOR HARVEY JOHNSTON.  
Professor of Zoology at the Adelaide University.

plant for its products. Certain insects were then introduced by Professor Johnston, which wiped out one kind of prickly pear, not only in Australia, but also in South Africa, where they were taken by the Professor. The war, however, caused the other recommendations of the commission which was appointed to be held up, and it was not until the Institute of Science and Industry was inaugurated that the matter was further considered. Professor Johnston was asked to take control of the work, and again in 1920-21 he was sent abroad, his work being mainly in North and South America, where he made arrangements for the collecting and breeding of the desired prickly pear enemies.

#### Stamping Out the Pest.

Referring to his recent research work for the Commonwealth Government regarding the possibility of wiping out the prickly pear, Professor Johnston said on Thursday morning that it was being done by means of the natural enemies of the plant, such as insects, fungi, and bacteria. The work was subsidized to the extent of one-half the cost by the Commonwealth Government, and one-quarter each from the New South Wales and Queensland Governments. The whole work was under the aegis of the Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry, and he was the scientific controller of the investigation. The main laboratory was near Brisbane, and subsidiary field stations were in Central Queensland, and there was one in the Moree district of New South Wales. Several members of the staff were engaged in collecting and reading work in Texas and Florida, in America. Consignments

of material were periodically sent from those places to Australia. It was from such consignments of stocks that all insects and so on had been bred, and about 27 different kinds were now being used. Some of them were of very little importance, but the majority had been found to have a very pronounced effect on the various species of prickly pear. Some of them fed externally on the plant, others internally, some destroyed the fruit, others the seed and stems, and still others attacked the roots. Several of the insects had been found capable of transmitting some of the prickly pear diseases, which had been introduced, and which were now being propagated in the laboratories. A tremendous number of insects had to be bred, but he was confident that there was now in Australia a number of organisms which acted detrimentally on the prickly pear, and if they continued to breed in the way that they had done during the last summer, there was every probability there would be a real control over the pest in Australia. Some of the most important enemies of the prickly pear were several kinds of moths, which in their caterpillar state readily destroyed the plant. All the various insects and diseases introduced had been tested against plants of economic value, and had been found to be restricted to such plants as were included among all cacti, of which the prickly pears were only one kind. The professor will take up his new duties at the University at once.

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### THE TUBERCULAR SOLDIERS' AID SOCIETY.

Dr. F. S. Hone writes:—Although much has been written and said during the past twenty years on the subject of pulmonary tuberculosis, the majority of the general public are still unaware of the complexity of the problem of prevention, or of the extent of economic loss to the community caused by the ravages of this disease. To most people treatment means sanatorium only, and prevention means the avoidance of people who are unfortunate enough to be supposed to be suffering from consumption. But the experience of twenty years has convinced administrators of the futility of relying mainly on sanatoria to check tuberculosis. They realize that such institutions are but one link in a chain which includes the provision of facilities for early diagnosis, and the establishment of institutions such as farm colonies, where those who have recovered health in sanatoria may test out their powers of work. In the chain also there must be hospitals for those cases which, in spite of sanatorium treatment have continued to advance. Any attempt at a comprehensive solution of these problems is so expensive that the community have as yet been afraid to face this task. The soldiers who returned from overseas suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis have afforded an opportunity of testing the possibility of providing these adjuncts to sanatorium treatment. The community has rightly felt that no expense is too great to rehabilitate these men who have contracted disease in their efforts on our behalf. Through the existence of this sentiment it has been possible to provide sanatorium accommodation for returned soldiers on a much more adequate scale than has hitherto been the case for the civilian population as a whole. At the same time more adequate financial support has been given to dependents of patients during the stay of the latter in sanatoria—an aspect of the case that has not yet been faced with civilians. The Red Cross Society in Victoria has established a farm colony for the sole purpose of dealing with returned soldiers who have passed through the sanatorium, in order that they may be trained in farm work, and at the same time tested as to their physical capability for doing this work. This colony has accommodation for thirty single men and six married men, the latter living in separate roomy chalets with their families. No man is admitted to the colony until he has ceased to be an "open" case. Men are only allowed to work a few hours a day at first they are fed well, and have ample opportunities for rest and recreation. As the men improve they are allowed to work longer hours and take on heavier work; at the same time a system is in vogue of payment for each hour's work, so that they are stimulated to test their powers to the utmost. It is found that garden work and poultry farming are the most suitable occupations. This colony includes men from all the States. There are only one or two South Australians at present in residence, and the authorities are anxious for more to come. In our own State the Tubercular Soldiers' Aid Society is endeavoring to raise funds for the purpose of dressing men who have improved in the local sanatorium, into this or similar spheres of activity, which may be fitted for them. The society also looks after dependents as far as possible, and so removes a load of anxiety from the patients' mind, which might tend to retard his recovery. It will be recognised that there is always an urgent need for funds in an organisation of this description, and for that purpose the society is organising a fête during the week, which deserves the sympathy and support of all who are interested in the welfare of this section of our returned men.