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of Dentistry at the University came about as the result of an investigation on the part of the Odontological Society when I was secretary of that body," said Mr. Swann. "This school was not favorably looked upon at first, but when Sir Joseph Verco was made Dean of the Faculty of Medicine he earnestly took the idea up, and in six months the regulations and schedules for the course were completed. We had then to secure a Dental Hospital to comply with the clinical requirements, and this was a problem of finance. Much to our relief that financial problem was overcome by the Governor-General delegating £15,000 of the £500,000 grant of the British Red Cross to the Australian Red Cross to this purpose. I had the distinction of devising the first plans for the requirements of the present Dental Hospital, and Mr. Simpson, the architect-in-chief did the rest. The institution is planned on the University Dental Hospital of Otago, New Zealand, which is under the direction of the great Professor Peckerrill, but the Adelaide building is much larger and superior."

Mr. Swann has served in various capacities, including those of president and secretary of the Odontological Society of South Australia. On the amalgamation of the Odontological Society of South Australia with the Dental Graduates' Society, a little over a year ago, he was elected president of the new body, known as the State Dental Society of South Australia. The Dental Congress held two years ago should have been held in 1915, but owing to the war it was postponed. Before the Dental Corps was formed Mr. Swann did a great deal to assist the authorities by organising dental service for the returned disabled men under the State War Council.

"It is largely owing to the self-sacrificing work of men like Dr. E. J. Counter and Mr. H. Gill Williams, and others like them, that the dental profession holds such a high place in public esteem in South Australia to-day," said Mr. Swann. "Speaking as a member of the Faculty of Dentistry, our course at the University is set at a very high standard, and our degree is recognised throughout the British Empire. Much could be done by the Government, through the Inspector-General of Hospitals, in coalescing the Government departments possessing separate dental clinics in a general control under the Inspector-General, and administered from the new Dental Hospital as far as the metropolitan area is concerned. Only one thing now remains, and that is I would like to see a chair of dentistry established at the University." That takes money, however, and if any wealthy benefactor would endow a chair Mr. Swann would be pleased to meet him. He considers that there is a great field for women in dentistry. The natural psychological sympathies of women, inspire a feeling of confidence in patients, and this is particularly important, especially with children. Mr. Swann would like to see a school established for dental mechanics and a school for dental nurses, and considers that this would considerably enhance both the value and status of such mechanics and nurses. He frankly admits that dentistry, after all, is but an expedient to check the ravages of caries. "The trouble is," he said whimsically, "that our civilisation has outgrown our teeth. Much of the food now purchased is all but digested already, and the teeth are not exercised sufficiently. Anything that encourages mouth breathing in children should be sternly discouraged." Mr. Swann, however, sees little hope of saving the teeth of the race. "We should have to revert to primal methods of life to do that," he said, "and as that is not probable, dentistry is likely to become of more vital importance to the community than ever. The State Dental Society of South Australia is quite prepared to give general hints from a public health standpoint, on the care of the teeth and a propaganda of such a nature is being arranged."

### UNQUALIFIED CHEMISTS.

### Amendment of Pharmacy Act Urged.

### "Great Leakage of Cocaine."

A largely attended deputation from the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia waited upon the Chief Secretary (Sir John Bice) this week, and requested that various amendments should be made to the Pharmacy Act of 1891, in order to prevent unqualified persons from carrying on business as chemists. Mr. Anthony, M.P., in introducing the deputation, said the society desired the elimination of the unregistered chemist. According to the Act as it stood there was nothing to prevent an unqualified man from doing all that a chemist did, so long as he did not call himself a chemist. This, he considered, very unfair to the man who had spent several years of his life qualifying for such a calling; it was also unfair from the point of view of the general public.

#### Obtaining Narcotics.

Mr. E. F. Gryst, in behalf of the Pharmaceutical Council, said that at present the Parliament of Australia was much exercised over the use of narcotic drugs throughout the Commonwealth. There was a great leakage of cocaine and morphine, which was not being supplied by their members. He considered that such narcotics should be handled by the qualified chemists only. A boy, taking up the profession, had to start with a matriculation examination equal to the senior public of the University, and had to serve a strenuous four years' apprenticeship in a medical situation. He was required to study botany, inorganic and organic chemistry; and then had to pass a severe test in pharmacy and dispensing, and also show his proficiency in being able to dispense properly. Of the 16 who sat for the last final examination only five had satisfied the board of examiners. The examination was made severe in order to protect the general public. Under the Act at present in operation, a man could call himself a druggist and sell everything a chemist could, with the exception of a few poisons, and even that difficulty had not been overcome by the obtaining of a poisons' licence. If the Act was amended in the manner they suggested, it would prevent the wholesale druggists from supplying these unqualified men with any drug they wished.

The President of the Pharmacy Board (Mr. R. L. Fox) said he represented 164 registered chemists, and owing to the weakness of the present Act, they could not administer it in its present form. If it were amended in the manner indicated some action could be taken to deal with the unqualified persons. The Act, as it stood at present, was one of the weakest in Australia. The dentists had legislation to protect them, as also did the nurses and the opticians. He understood that veterinary surgeons were to have some such protection.

Mr. H. Nieman supported the remarks of the previous speakers, and mentioned that at the present time chlorodyne was being supplied to whom desired it.

#### Matter to be Considered.

The Minister, in reply, said that it was a great pity that they had not brought the matter forward earlier, because the programme for the present session of Parliament had already been prepared, and the Governor's Speech had indicated the work before the House. The third session was rather a bad time to bring forward such a controversial subject. However, he would bring it before Cabinet as early as possible. Before doing so he would refer the matter to the Crown Law Officers, for an interpretation of clause 25. If the Act was prejudicial to the general public, in addition to those qualified men carrying on the business of pharmacists, then he had a clear case to place before his colleagues, that something must be done. He did not know whether Mr. Gryst meant that, by the Act restricting the use of alcoholic liquors, the use of drugs was becoming more manifest.

Mr. Gryst—No; I did not contend that. The Minister said the use of drugs, then, was increasing without assigning it to the effect of any particular clause. He would like to say, in connection with the remark made by the last speaker concerning chlorodyne, that the use of this drug was very beneficial to those in outlying districts; and he thought it would be futile to endeavour to prevent the supply of it. No doubt the use of it had been detrimental to a few, but the beneficial results quite outweighed those. He would have no difficulty in bringing what they asked before his colleagues, or of getting from the Crown law officers particulars of any cases where the Act was not complied with; all the general working of the Act.

### TIMBER PRESERVATION.

### Communal Forest System.

### Mr. J. C. Corbin's Experiences

Mr. H. Corbin, lecturer on forestry at the Adelaide University, has been engaged in the State for over 10 years in teaching students, and in educating the public, on all matters affecting the growth and retention of timber, and in the establishment of new forests, and the value of his precepts and work is borne out by his brother, Mr. J. C. Corbin, who has been attached to the Colonial Forest Service for many years, and is now on a visit to Adelaide.

Mr. J. G. Corbin, like his brother, has made a profession of forestry, and has had experience in all parts of the world. He began with the practical side of the work in America, where he spent three and a half years. Then followed a course of theoretical tuition at the Edinburgh University, and incidental to that, there was experience in the estates of Lord Novar, ex-Governor-General of Australia. Subsequently he entered the Colonial Forest Service, and was sent out to West Africa, to localities known as "the white man's grave," but his constitution survived the rigours and dangers of the climate, and he stuck to his post. He preceded his career there by six months' residence in Germany, so that he could go thoroughly into the communal forestry scheme of that country with the object of introducing similar methods into West Africa. On the outbreak of war Mr. Corbin joined up with the British West African forces, and after having served with them for some time, transferred to England, and subsequently became attached to the Flying Corps headquarters in France, and did much work as a lieutenant at the front. He was not demobilized until December, 1919.

#### An Interesting Career.

Mr. Corbin's studies and work have led him far afield, and quite apart from the war, his career with the Colonial Forest Service has been full of interest. Since dissociation from the army he has been studying his profession in many of the English forests, and has now come to Australia with the idea of possibly settling here. He is staying with his brother. His enthusiasm in his work was speedily manifested to a representative of The Register in the course of a conversation on Friday, and Mr. Corbin, like many another, paid high tribute to the Germans for the great advance they had made up to the outbreak of the war, in the science of forestry. "In this respect," he said, "they stood alone for many years; but now other nations are realizing the necessities of preserving existing forests, and planting new ones, and the movement is making great headway in America. The practical experience I gained both in Germany and America was of much value. Great strides are now being made with the work in West Africa, where conservation and reafforestation, and the establishment of communal plantations is being engaged in. Practically all the timbers in that country are hard woods, the only coniferous species being the casuarina, the seeds of which had been obtained from Australia and from the Himalayas. It flourishes in the sandy districts. All the best of the indigenous timber is being planted under reafforestation principles. Large quantities of teak, which is not indigenous there, and which has a shorter rotation than the same species of timber in India, have also been planted. The success of the work in West Africa has been remarkable, not only from the point of view of keeping up supplies, but also in providing a gratifying net revenue."

#### "A National Asset."

Referring to the great value of the Continental communal forest system, Mr. Corbin said:—On the Continent, particularly in Germany, forestry is practiced by small communities, villages, towns, and cities, and public institutions, such as hospitals, colleges, and universities, as an investment and revenue-yielding proposition, as well as a great asset from an aesthetic standpoint. A proper system of communal forestry brings about the total abolition of local taxation, an ever increasing communal wealth, the omega of unemployment, the means of restricting unsatisfactory migration from city to city, and last, but not least, the means of yielding funds.

Germany is the home of scientific forestry, the country which has brought this communal system into being, from a modern standpoint, and developed it to a high degree of perfection. She has shown the world that forestry plays a great part in increasing the wealth of nations. The establishment of communal forests throughout the length and breadth of a country is of the greatest importance, particularly from the point of view of defence to attacks by air, as military operations can only be successfully and safely carried out under cover of the forest. In Germany the forest is a valued national asset; and to-day is regarded as one of the means whereby the reparations demanded by the Allies may be satisfied. The communal forests of Germany with which I am familiar, are the Grosser Wald, Furstenberg, Staufen, Sultzberg, the City Forest of Freiburg, and Blouen.

#### Two Successful Villages.

As an example of the results of the communal system, I shall refer to one of the smallest forests, that of the "Grosser Wald," which belongs to the village of Diedelshiem in Baden. It has an area of 1,862,703 hectares, equal to 461 acres, approximately, less roads and rides. In the Middle Ages it was treated as a selection forest. One hundred and fifty years ago it was divided into 30 coups, treated as a coppice with standards. During the last 20 years it has been treated as a normal high forest. Two different stands are, however, yet distinguished in it. The village of Diedelshiem has a population of approximately 500, possesses the latest modern advantages, such as electric light, excellent water supply, modern roads and streets; in short, everything is up to date, and the inhabitants are tax free. The funds were found out of the revenue of the forest. The gross revenue was 228,800 marks, the expenditure 51,800 marks, and the net revenue 177,000 marks, namely, £8,850 per annum. These figures were taken from the forest account. Frieburg has a population of 500,000, and is also free of rates on the same lines as Diedelshiem. The forest of Blouen is diffuse, and supports a number of villages in the Weiler Valley, all of which participate in the profits from the forest on a percentage basis, according to population. The system actually existed in Germany centuries ago. In 1843 a law was passed ordering the communal forests to be surveyed and permanent boundaries fixed, and the scheme was further developed. This was completed in 1850. The communal system, as practised in Germany, has been introduced into West Africa with marked success. The plantations and forests which have been created within the last few years on comparatively denuded areas adjacent to large towns, are in every way successful, and a boon to the respective communities."

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James Corbin

A passenger by the steamer Anchises, which arrived at the Outer Harbor from Glasgow on Saturday, was Professor Cottar Ewart, Regius Professor of Natural History in the Edinburgh University, which he is to represent at the Pan-Pacific Congress. He has offered to read papers on various subjects, including the three-toed and marsupial stages in the development of a horse, and origin and history of wool and Merino sheep, and the evolution of feathers. Professor Ewart is an honorary member of the Research Association for the woollen and worsted industries in Great Britain, in the service of which he has spent a considerable time in the breeding of Merino sheep. He has been experimenting with various kinds of British sheep by way of improving the quality and quantity of their wool. During the present year a considerable number of Merinos are being taken from Peru to Great Britain for the purpose of experimenting with British breeds under the direction of a committee of the Wool and Research Association, of which Professor Ewart is convener. Since 1895 he has been crossing horses with zebras with a view to ascertaining if there is any truth in the doctrine of telegony (the hypothetical influence of a previous sire seen in the progeny of a subsequent sire from the same mother), but no evidence was obtained in support of it. Professor Ewart, who accompanied by his wife, had originally intended to proceed on the Anchises to Sydney, but to be in time for the opening of the congress he found it necessary to complete the journey to Melbourne by train.