

**IGNORANT AUSTRALIA**  
**ENGLISH CHARGE DENIED.**  
**MEN WITH AWFUL "FISTS."**

"You can't judge the education of people by handwriting. Some of our most educated men are awful writers. For example, try to read a doctor's prescription and you will soon see."

SO proclaimed Mr. C. Charlton, Acting Director of Education in South Australia, when the astounding statement made this week by Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, a former Minister of Education in the British Cabinet, that Australians were the most illiterate people in the Empire, was brought under his notice.

Mr. Charlton fully agreed with Mr. McCoy's defence at the Education Conference in London, where the director pointed out to members that the Australian percentage of illiterate persons was 0.16 as against Great Britain's 1.8 per cent.

"It is hard to say anything against a man of Mr. Fisher's standing," explained Mr. Charlton, "but Mr. McCoy's information is bound to be authentic. Mr. Fisher's opinion, obtained from the signatures on marriage registers extending over a number of years in Great Britain and South Africa, cannot be taken as correct in this case."

"Then you do not consider we are an illiterate people in comparison with other parts of the Empire?"

"Good gracious, no!" said Mr. Charlton. "Of course we are not. It is impossible to judge a man by his handwriting. Some of our most educated men are awful writers. Try to read a doctor's prescription and you will soon see."

"One of our most learned professors in Adelaide," the acting director continued, "writes a most difficult hand. Don't you think it is an unwise and unsound basis to form a great, sweeping judgment upon? Handwriting is no test. I should hope at least that Mr. Fisher's statement is as untrue as it appears on the surface."

Dr. Strong, Professor of English at the Adelaide University, when asked for his opinion on the subject, said he would not like to contradict Mr. Fisher's statement. "Speaking from a general impression, however," he added, "I think Mr. Fisher is wrong."

"Do you from observation consider that Australians are more illiterate?"

"I don't. Certainly not. My impression in that respect is that classes in England are more illiterate than those here. Handwriting, I admit, is a poor basis upon which to form an opinion."

**THE "STRUCTURE AND GROWTH OF MUSIC."**

To-night, at the University, in the Prince of Wales Lecture-room, Professor Harold Davies will deliver the first of three lectures on the "Structure and growth of music." They will be variously illustrated, and are especially designed to make it clear how music has come to be. Not only students, but all who attend concerts and enjoy listening to music, will find an interest in the story of its development. To learn more of the true nature of this great art, to understand something of its structure, told in a simple way, will add greatly to the power of appreciation and the pleasure of its hearing.

**PRIZE FOR ONE-ACT PLAY.**

The Rupert Brooke literary prize, instituted in 1920 by the Old Collegians' Association of the Melbourne Presbyterian Ladies' College, to commemorate peace, will be awarded this year for the best one-act play, written, but not previously published or produced, by any British-born subject resident in Australasia for at least five years. The judges will be Professors T. Jolly Smith (Melbourne), Professor Archibald Strong (Adelaide), and Mr. Grogan McMahon (Sydney). The first award, which was made in 1920, was for a noble epic poem on "Anzac," by Mr. David McKee Wright. Full particulars of the competition may be obtained from the honorary secretary, Mrs. Ben Richards, Kewita, White Horse road, Box Hill, Victoria.

**CARE OF THE TEETH.**

**The New Dental Hospital.**

**Up-to-date Equipment.**

The objects of the new Dental Hospital are—to provide dentistry for persons not in a position to pay the usual fees; to enable better care of the teeth, and so improve the general health of the community; and to provide an institution for students taking the dental course at the University to have a practical training, which is often hard to obtain unless articulated to a registered practising dentist. The hospital will be worked on similar lines to the Adelaide General Hospital. Patients unable to afford treatment will be treated free, and others will be asked to contribute in accordance with their means.

The Dental Society in the first place prevailed upon the University authorities to set a degree course in dentistry. The following were appointed by the Government to draw up a scheme for a hospital:—Sir Joseph Verec, a Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Drs. A. G. Trott and E. J. Counter, and Messrs. H. Gill Williams and Alex. Swann.

**Large Gift from Red Cross Society.**

Lord Novar, ex-Governor-General of the Commonwealth, was largely instrumental in the establishment of the Dental Hospital at Frome road, and it was through his efforts that the British Red Cross Society in England was made aware of the proposal. So impressed was the body with the need for such an institution that it generously gave £15,000 toward its construction, and the Government, after being promised such a large gift, decided to go on with the work. The new hospital, which will be opened to the public to-day, contains the last word in dental equipment, and, according to those qualified to express an opinion, it is the most complete and up-to-date building of its kind in Australia, if not in the southern hemisphere. The erection of the building was authorized by the Barwell Government. The Chief Secretary (Sir John Bice) has always been an ardent advocate of such an institution, and has taken keen interest in dental matters generally. The Dental Hospital will be under the control, management and supervision of the Adelaide Hospital Board, of which Dr. B. H. Morris is Chairman, and Messrs. Wallace Sandford and C. R. J. Glover the other members. There will be an efficient staff of dentists in attendance. Dr. Arthur Chapman will be superintendent, and Mr. T. D. Campbell, house dental surgeon.

**The Building Described.**

The building was constructed by Messrs. Dwyer & Warner, contractors, and designed, planned, and supervised by the Architect-in-Chief's Department. It is of red brick, with a tiled roof, and presents an artistic appearance. It has an effective loggia entrance, and a handsome waiting hall with polished Queensland maple seats and fittings. The floor of the hall is of polished jarrah parqueting, and the ceiling of moulded fibre-plaster. To right of the hall is the operating theatre, lined with white tiling to a height of about 5 ft., and provided with porcelain sinks and hand basins fitted with hot and cold water services drawn through nickel arm taps; also white enamelled cupboards and polished plate glass towel racks. Waiting and recovery rooms lead off the operating theatre, and are fitted with every comfort. Down the hall on the right are inspection and local anaesthetic surgeries for adults and children. On the left of the entrance are the administrative offices, fireproof storeroom, nurses' sterilizing room and linen press, all provided with every convenience. Leading from the main hall is the Prosthetic Room, or mechanical workshop, a splendidly lighted area extending the full width of the building (38 x 34 ft.). This important portion of the hospital is provided with specially constructed forms and benches, and is the place where the students will be instructed in and carry out the making of artificial plates and other dentures. Attached to the Prosthetic Room are a small surgery for the taking of impressions and the fitting of teeth; the vulcanizing room, in which a furnace and other appliances are installed; and another room solely for plaster work, confining the dirty part of the manufacture of artificial plates to one place. In the Prosthetic Room every adjunct on the

mechanical side of dentistry will be installed, including six electric motors to provide power for the grinding and polishing lathes. There are benches for 20 students, and this accommodation can be augmented when the number of students is increased.

The conservation surgery on the first floor is 72 x 34 ft., and excellently lighted. Provision is made for the installation of 48 chairs in this room, but the present number will be 12 dental chairs. These will be manufactured in Australia by Messrs. Wood, Gibley, & Co., of Sydney. In the Conservation Block the preservation of teeth by filling and other means, and treatment of diseases of the mouth and gums will be carried out. Attached to this area is an X-ray room, containing one of the latest appliances, and all root work executed by students will be afterwards checked by the X-ray photographs. On this floor are also the general laboratory and research service rooms, an ante-room for honorary lecturers, and a lecture theatre with provision for lantern illustration. Ante rooms, lunch rooms, and a balcony are provided for students and nurses in their leisure moments. With the exception of the operating theatre, all the lockers, cupboards, tables, &c., are stained and varnished in artistic moss green colour. All fountains, spittoons, and similar appliances are by Messrs. Wood, Gibley, & Co., of Sydney, finished in nickel, and connected with the water and sewer services. Messrs. Claudius, Ash, Son, and Co., of London, large manufacturers of dental ware, have presented two of their latest chairs to the institution. Every room in the building is reticulated for hot water radiators, and compressed air is provided where necessary.

**Cleanliness.**

The keynote of the whole establishment is cleanliness. Towels will be used once only, arm controls are provided on taps in the operating theatre so that no infection can be carried by handling, sterilizers are provided in each surgery, and placed in such a position that patients can see the cleansing operation in process.

**The Patients.**

The hospital will provide means for catering for a long-felt want of the poorer classes of the community, and there will now be no excuse for children in the metropolitan State schools neglecting the care of their teeth. Dr. Gertrude Halley has done excellent work in her inspections of the State school children, and in educating them in the care of the teeth. Now that the Dental Hospital is an established fact, she will be able to arrange for the scholars to be treated at the hospital, and the authorities anticipate being kept busy dealing with State children, and the inmates of Government institutions, as well as others.

In conversation with a representative of The Register, Dr. Chapman, the superintendent, said the war had done a great deal toward teaching the manhood of Australia the need for keeping their teeth in order. Every soldier who left Australia departed with his teeth in proper condition, and after their experiences, they now appreciate the value of dental treatment. The hospital authorities feel that they will have the confidence of the public as soon as their work is known, and expect a busy time.

**The Teaching of Students.**

Students taking the dental course at the University—of whom there are now 20—18 males and four females—will now pursue their studies at the Dental Hospital, giving more accommodation for medical students at the Darling Building. The dental training is a four years' course. The students provide all their own instruments, including a foot dental engine. Students will carry out most of the work under careful supervision, and will be present at, and take part in operations. The institution will provide all materials used by the students, for which they will be charged £20 a year.

**The Staff.**

The present staff consists of:—Dr. Arthur Chapman, D.D.S. (Penn.) superintendent, who was Officer-in-charge of Dental Units for South Australia during the war, and has had 10 years' private experience; Mr. T. D. Campbell, B.D.S. (Adel.) dental house surgeon; Mr. C. E. Joyner, senior mechanic and demonstrator; Mr. C. W. Whitford, mechanic; Mr. S. B. Harry, in charge of the office; and Sister Priest.

**"THE FUNCTIONS OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION."**

At a recent meeting of the Christian Sociological Society, an address was delivered by Professor H. Darnley Naylor, M.A. He urged that no university could afford to lose sight of its higher objects. It must not become a mere technical college or glorified high school. It should seek to train men and women who would be capable of adding to the sum of human knowledge. A university should aim at encouraging and facilitating genuine research. Research should not be confined to utilitarian subjects. Professor Naylor said he rather doubted whether sufficient provision was made for the really able student. He advocated strongly the residential system, which taught men to be good "mixers," and promoted a finer type of character than any non-residential system could do. He thought that too much attention was devoted to lectures, and not enough time allowed for tutorial work which brought the professor into personal touch with the student. The great obstacle to the development of the tutorial system was financial; it required a much larger staff than was necessary under the lecture system. He was very apprehensive of outside attempts to limit the freedom of university teachers. A few years ago a certain State Government offered to endow a chair in Political Economy, on condition that the professor appointed was a Protectionist. He was glad to say that the university concerned declined the offer. In America, the teaching of economics had been largely sterilized because professors had not been allowed any freedom of criticism. People had a right to expect the universities to offer a lead to public opinion on certain questions, although he agreed that no university should ever lend itself to propaganda. Professor Naylor complained that the pronunciation of English was a matter that needed great improvement; here again the universities should help. Correct pronunciation was really much more important than correct spelling. Dr. W. T. Cooke, and Messrs. Hamilton and Birrell, M.P.'s, G. W. Halcombe, S.M., and J. C. McDonnell, M.A., and others took part in a vigorous discussion. It was generally agreed that higher education was suffering from too much "cramming," while independent and original thought was repressed. Principal Kiek, B.A., who presided, contended that, though the work of the university might be open to criticism, the standard required for a degree in Adelaide was probably as high as that demanded in any university in the world. It was as high as that required at London University, and very much higher than that for a pass degree at Oxford or Cambridge. Professor Darnley Naylor was heartily thanked for his stimulating and suggestive lecture.

**EDUCATION CONFERENCE.**

**What It Has Achieved.**

- LONDON, July 9.
- The Lord Mayor of London (Mr. Edward Cecil Moore) tendered a luncheon at the Mansion House to the dominions High Commissioners and the education delegates, including the Australian representatives Messrs. Tate (Vic.), McCoy (S.A.), Dillon (Q.), and Ely (Tas.).
- The Lord Mayor proposed the health of the delegates, to which Mr. Viljoen, Director of Education in South Africa, replied. He paid a tribute to the English educational system. The principal achievements of the conference had been:—
- (1) The establishment of the Imperial Bureau.
  - (2) The organization of free and unfettered educational interchange throughout the Empire.
  - (3) It had lain the foundations of an international commonwealth of education.