Fascinating and Instructive Tour.

The Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy) returned to Adelaide on Tuesday after having spent over seven months in a tour of the world, in the course of which he gained much valuable information concerning educational methods in many countries. As a member of the Imperial Education Conference he met the leading men in the Educational Departments of most of the Dominion and colonies.

The main purpose of the visit of the Head of the Department South Australia to England was to attend the Imperial Education Conference, and, in addition to that, he was given permission by the Government to investigate the systems of education in other lands. He left Adelaide on March 15, and since then he has visited England, many countries on the Continent of Europe, and United States of America and Canada. Mr. McCoy returned to Adelaide via the Pacific route, and, on reaching Adelaide on Tuesday, he was met by the Minister of Education (Hon. T. Fawcett) and a large number of friends.

Throughout the trip he was accompanied by Mr. McCoy. At the close of the conference, the Minister of Education granted an interview to the Press, and, in addition to the story he had to tell of the work he had accomplished, he had numerous anecdotes about the manner in which certain educational principles were developed by pleasure. These tales of travel to Wembley, to see the famous finals of the football, have been read by thousands of people and brought great pleasure.

Mr. W. T. McCoy, Director of Education, who returned to Adelaide yesterday from a world tour.

Nothing so interesting as to the great usefulness of the work which Professor T. Brailsford Robertson (Professor of Physiology and Biochemistry) is doing at the University, in seeking to cheapen the production of insulin. That preparation, as everyone knows, is a cure for most of the terrible and hitherto incurable disease, diabetes. Perhaps it would be said that it is not precisely a cure, because it does not restore the disease pancreas to healthy action, but supplies the element, which, in normal conditions, the "islands" of the pancreas excrete normally.

For the reason insulin must be administered it cannot be sold, and, therefore, unless it is to be merely specimens for the wealthy, must be produced at a cost, which will bring within the reach even of the poorest.

That care has not yet been arrived at, but Professor Brailsford Robertson seems to be approaching very closely to it. He is, however, seriously imperilled by the price he has to pay for pure alcohol, which is largely employed in the manufacture of insulin.

During the year the Minister of Education has been enabled to purchase, for scientific purposes, 50 gallons of absolute alcohol, duty free. That quantity was exhausted some months ago and the supplies now have to be secured at a cost of 44 1/2 a gallon, as against 11 1/2 under the duty-free system. The substantial effect which this difference has upon the cost of production and the extent of the experimenting can be easily understood.

It can be readily calculated that, if, under existing conditions, the cost has reduced to 94 1/2 a dose, with a full supply of duty-free alcohol, it might be brought down to 1 1/2 a dose, which would make insulin available everywhere.

Common sense suggests that it should only be a matter of asking the Commonwealth Government to secure the abolition of the 50-gallon duty on alcohol, which is a barrier to scientific progress in this field, and leave the quantity unrestricted. Surely the Commonwealth Steam Laboratory is not entitled to any greater encouragement or assistance than a similar institution in any of the States.

Every possible aid should be readily rendered to research work, especially the arenas of medicine and chemistry, upon which the happiness and well-being of mankind are so largely dependent. If the Commonwealth has behind it the added forcefulness of the cry of the suffering poor. Already it is, unfortunately, though perhaps inevitably true, that cases of sickness the resources of medical science are more extensively available to the wealthy than to the poor, wherever the anomaly can be allayed or removed, the opportunity should not be lost.

Such excellent work has been accomplished by Professor Brailsford Robertson and his school, at the University, that every help and facility needed to complete their good work would be welcomed. Any conditions which might prevent the expenditure of a few baggy pounds be permitted to obstruct the application of life-saving health business and health-saving principles to the afflicted poor.

OIL IN NEW GUINEA.

GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAND.

It has been announced that there are no oil deposits in New Guinea, but this conclusion has been confirmed by Mr. E. R. Highley, Secretary of the Government's Geologists on the island, on Tuesday, on the Island of Guadalcanal. The Government is of a policy and has been obtaining through the course of the explorations, which has been carried on with the utmost secrecy, that the oil is a most valuable resource. A bore was attempted by the Pecunites, who were instructed in this work by the Government, but the results were not promising. The policy of the Government has been to keep the secret of the discovery and to avoid any publicity.

In speaking with the native races, mixed by the Natives, Mr. Highley jotted down a few points which may be of interest to the scientific world. He said that the natives of the area were very anxious to work, and that the oil was of great value to them.

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