

visit South Africa on the way back. In South Africa a tour included all the Government laboratories for plant pathology in the union of South Africa, and the laboratories of botany and plant pathology in the universities. At the headquarters of the Union Department of Botany at Pretoria, are an extensive library, herbarium, and laboratory equipment, far exceeding any similar equipment in Australia. From Pretoria I made a two days' trip into the citrus-growing district of Rustenburg, and saw diseases in the field, and the working details of the campaign to eradicate citrus-canker. From Cape Town I visited the Professor of Plant Pathology at the Agricultural University of Stellenbosch; the Elsenburg School of Agriculture; and pear orchards in the best pear-growing districts. On account of similarity of many conditions in South Africa and Australia, this addition to my trip was of great interest and value. In view of the possibility of the establishment of a School of Agriculture of the University at Urrbrae in the near future, with which the Laboratory of Plant Pathology would be connected, I paid special attention to the way in which such a laboratory should be organized. When the time comes for the establishment of these laboratories, my notes and suggestions will be at disposal of the Urrbrae Committee. The present equipment of the Laboratory of Plant Pathology I find sufficient for the immediate future, except for museum jars and certain literature (notably, Saccardo's Sylloge Fungorum). Facilities for cultural experiment with growing plants are essential, as Professor Osborn suggested to the Urrbrae Committee earlier in the year. Some greenhouse accommodation and a small piece of land are needed, with part-time services of a gardener. If this could be arranged in the immediate future, the work of the laboratory would be much improved.

bourne, and the President of the Congress will read his inaugural address. On the following Wednesday evening Professor Sir John Macpherson, of the University of Sydney, will deliver a popular lecture on the "Emotion of fear in health and disease." The congress dinner will take place in the town hall on November 15, with His Excellency the Governor of Victoria as chief guest.

News 2. 11. 23

ROMANCE OF RESEARCH

Students' Greatest Pleasure

Probably no pleasure is greater than that which the scholar enjoys when he sets out to investigate some scientific or historical problem to which no one has hitherto given attention. That was the text of a lecture on "The Romance of Research," which was delivered by Dr. Heaton to members of the Adelaide Repertory Club at Devon House, Pirie street.

The address was illustrated by lantern slides showing specimens of historical material, ranging from flint stones, Egyptian inscriptions, and extracts from Magna Charta to the title pages of eighteenth century newspapers.

Dr. Heaton maintains that the scholar of research feels all the charm of being a pioneer on an untrodden road. There is hard work to be done, drudgery to be faced, but there is always the prospect that some great discovery may be made which will add substantially to the world's knowledge.

During the past 60 years an enormous volume of historical research has been undertaken, and in every country men have been digging into the documents and other sources from which information can be gleaned concerning the happenings of the past. The archaeologist has been helped by excavations in the cradles of the older civilisations, while the establishment of archives departments, such as the British Record Office, the British Museum, the Mitchell Library in Sydney, and our own archives department, has made the task of the historical searcher much more easy and congenial.

METHODS OF RESEARCH.

The first task is to find a subject on which no person has previously worked. Before the war that was becoming increasingly difficult, for legions of German and American graduates swooped down upon almost every aspect of British and European history, and it was difficult to find a patch of unoccupied ground. Once a subject has been found the next thing is to find the contemporary material relating to it. If the subject deal with primitive man then the only contemporary data may be a few bones or pieces of flint. Once mankind began to write, however, we get at his records inscribed on tablets of clay, on the old surfaces or tombs or coffins, on blocks of stone, and later upon papyrus. The deciphering of these inscriptions was for a long time impossible, but the unearthing of the Rosetta Stone in about 1800 made it possible to translate countless inscriptions found in Egypt.

For recorded European history the documents are at first chiefly long rolls of parchment. Paper did not appear until about 1400 A.D. In order to read these medieval parchments a thorough preliminary training is necessary, and a powerful magnifying glass, for the medieval scribe was an economist and wrote most words in an abbreviated form in small handwriting in dog-Latin. By the fifteenth century English had displaced Latin for most purposes, but the form of hand writing and spelling with which we today are familiar was the result of a long process of painful development.

BETTER HANDWRITING.

By the eighteenth century the handwriting on official documents had become quite copper-plate, and since paper was now much cheaper the writing was much larger.

Printed sources of information began with the fifteenth century, and from that time onward the tide of books, pamphlets, and leaflets rose higher. Then about 1700 the newspaper appeared. The early newspapers were entertaining productions, and those who wrote the advertisements for quack medicines knew as much about advertising psychology as their present-day descendants.

BRITISH MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

An interesting addition to the large number of musical instruments of English manufacture at present in use at the Elder Conservatorium is a three-quarter size violoncello, which has recently come to hand. This is a production of the celebrated London firm of W. E. Hill & Sons. It is of fine finish, and has a beautiful tone. The instrument, which was selected by Mr. Herbert Walenn, has been specially procured for Mr. Harold Parsons' Violoncello School, to enable students to begin their studies at a much earlier period than would otherwise be possible. This is of the greatest advantage, and offers a distinct encouragement to those who are looking forward to taking up a most attractive study.

News 3. 10. 23

Popular Professor

It is natural that Prof. Archibald T. Strong should be a pensive man, for his father was Professor of Classics at Melbourne University for many years, before going to the chair of Latin at Liverpool.

Educated at Sedbergh School, he went up to the University of Liverpool, where he graduated M.A., and afterward entered Magdalen, Oxford, where he was an exhibitioner in classics. The Middle Temple also knew his genius.



Dr. Strong

For many years Prof. Strong has been literary critic for "The Herald," Melbourne, and his articles and opinions are looked forward to by a host of readers all over the Commonwealth. Many a person does his book-buying on the strength of the critic's reviews.

Dr. Strong is a bachelor whose hobby is work. He is a brilliant conversationalist, a deep thinker, an idealist, and, withal, he has a deep sense of humor. He must like the cinema, for in 1919 he was appointed Chief Commonwealth Censor of films. He certainly loves the stage, and is a frequent visitor to shows.

He has been president of the Melbourne Literature and Shakespeare Societies during his lectureship in English at the University of that city. His appointment as Professor of English at this University was highly popular, and Adelaide may congratulate herself on his presence.

As an author, too, Dr. Strong is widely known. His essay on "Nature in Meredith and Wordsworth" must have entailed great reading and deep study. This volume was followed by "Paradise," a series of critical essays on literary subjects.

His translation of Banville's "Ballades" with a critical essay was published in London in 1913, but as early as 1905 "Sonnets and Songs" came from his pen. Later again "Australia and the War" and "The Story of the Anzas" appeared, and in 1918 his last book of poems was published.

Dr. Strong took his Litt. D. degree at Melbourne a couple of years ago on a thesis which treated of literature. He is popular with his students.

THE NEWS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1923.

PROBLEMS FOR THE LEAGUE

(By Professor Coleman Phillipson.)

Some two or three weeks ago it was announced in a cable from London that various problems, relating chiefly to the interpretation of the Covenant of the League of Nations, were to be submitted for investigation to a special commission of jurists. These questions, five in number, arose out of the Italo-Greek crisis, which I have already discussed in "The News."

Whether it is timidity or diplomatic expediency that has induced the Council to refer these matters to a committee of outsiders, I do not know; but in my opinion it would have been better to refer them to the International Court, whose decisions would have been judicial and authoritative, instead of to a body of men whose findings can be only juristic opinions, and subject to uncertain and indefinite manipulation subsequently. Besides, Art. 14 actually provides that the Court may give advisory opinions upon any dispute or question submitted to it by the Council or by the Assembly. It is of the utmost importance that all questions be submitted only to the Court, so that the body of International Law may develop, and the habit of judicially settling disputes may be inculcated.

Event Leading to a Rupture

The first question is whether the League can decide if an event is likely to lead to a rupture. Under Art. 12 members agree to refer to arbitration or inquiry by the Council "any dispute likely to lead to a rupture." In the first place the term "rupture" has not been made clear; it might be a rupture of only certain diplomatic or commercial relationships, or it might be that together with a supervening warlike attitude and intention. If the first meaning is taken, I think it would be hardly a case for the intervention of the League; if it means the second, then it would seem that the League can step in and make its decision, if the members themselves do not decide within the lapse of a reasonable time.

Suspending the League's Activities

Must the League suspend its activities if the disputants agree to refer the matter elsewhere? The whole Covenant contemplates and expressly allows the submission of an issue to private arbitration, as well as to the Council or to the International Court. Therefore, if the parties agree to go to arbitration, in accordance with their recognised right to do so, it follows that the League must suspend its activities in the meantime, unless it appears that such agreement involves a subterfuge or want of good faith on the part of either side, whereby time may be gained for warlike preparation.

The third question is: Is there any other way to have a mutual arbitration in which the League can be left out of the negotiations? This is not very intelligible as it stands, because an arbitration either involves the League's negotiations or it does not, and if it does not, it is of the kind already mentioned. Of course, there are various forms of independent arbitration to which the contesting members may resort, for example, making a third State the arbitrator (so that its Government would appoint one or more of its own distinguished jurists to officiate); combining two or more third States; appointing a mixed arbitral commission, consisting of members of each contesting party, with or without other members of third States to act as active arbitrators or merely as umpires or mediators, and so on.

Register 31-10-23

The Central Board of Health has approved the appointment of Dr. A. Britter Jones as deputy health officer for Port Adelaide.

Register 1-11-23

AUSTRALASIAN MEDICAL CONGRESS.

The Australasian Medical Congress (British Medical Association) will hold its first session in Melbourne from Monday, November 12, to Saturday, November 17. Medical practitioners, members of the British Medical Association, will attend to the number of many hundreds already 700 have entered) from all parts of Australasia and from the Dominion of New Zealand. The retiring President of the British Medical Association, Sir William MacEwen, LL.D., M.D., surgeon to His Majesty the King in Scotland, Regius Professor of Surgery in the University of Glasgow, has arrived to represent the British Medical Association. The congress will deal with subjects of the greatest importance to the public health, drawn from the whole range of medicine and surgery, and throughout particular attention will be given to the preventive aspect. The scientific meetings of the congress will be held in the new Anatomy Building, and in the Medical School of the University of Melbourne. At 2.30 p.m. on Monday, November 12, the new Anatomy Buildings (built at a cost of £70,000) will be formally opened by Sir William MacEwen, at the request of the Chancellor of the University, conveyed through His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, in his capacity as visitor of the University of Melbourne. Immediately afterwards a beautiful bronze memorial (by Mr. Web. Gilbert) to the 46 medical men who lost their lives through the Great War, will be unveiled by His Excellency the Governor in the museum of the new Anatomy Buildings. Following this, the President of the Congress and Mrs. G. A. Syme will give a reception in the Wilson Hall of the University of Melbourne. On Monday night, November 12, the congress will be formally opened by His Excellency the Governor-General, in the Town Hall, Mel-