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the infliction of a fine for negligence in catching the disease. It was just as futile to attempt to secure moral integrity through punishments for faults or misdemeanors. Conformity to the dictates of external authority might be attained by these means, but at the cost of a deformed personality. It should not be supposed that because subtlety and selfishness were somewhat common that those traits belonged inevitably to normal adulthood. A man had the capacity for achieving an infinitely higher goal, and might become if he so desired the embodiment of health physically, mentally, and morally, and it was to the attainment of that end that all true education should be directed.

## "NEW EDUCATION."

### Conferences to be Held Annually.

The last of a series of seven lectures in relation to the conference in Adelaide on "New Methods of Education" were delivered on Saturday afternoon, and evening at the Conservatorium, North terrace, by Mr. F. K. Barton, of the Turrumurra College, New South Wales, and Professor Davies, of the Adelaide Conservatorium.

#### Educational Freedom.

Mr. Barton spoke on "Educational freedom in practice." The Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth presided. The lecturer said that it was impossible there to do more than indicate one or two of the arguments which teachers might use in reply to the Philistines, who jeered at either the very idea of "teaching" children to write poetry, or at the actual poems written by children. Even if children were blessed with the most gifted parents, and placed in the tutorship of the most gifted teacher, and came in contact at home and abroad with the finest minds of the day, they could not afford to be deprived of contact with the great minds of the past and of all nations. It was necessary that children should study poetry. It was becoming more and more clearly realized that the way to get to understand something was to "do" it. Children were helped to understand complicated machinery by making models. On that principle, then, the attempt to write poetry was of value in aiding juveniles to appreciate the poetry of others. Children, continued Mr. Barton, were primitive beings, and, like primitive races, were keenly susceptible to the power of rhythm. Their ears, too, were acute, and only needed exercise to remain so. The love of beauty was one of the strongest of universal instincts, and appreciation of beauty was invariably accompanied by the desire to express it. All those things went to explain how it was that the speech of children naturally tended to be rhythmical. They should be encouraged to write verse, at any rate so soon as, if not before, they began to try and express themselves in prose. The rhythmical putting together of words was a natural activity for normal boys and girls. They had a natural love of the beauty of sound, for the picturesque, the concrete, and the imaginative, that was to say, for poetry. The speaker then quoted some of the verses written by the boys of Turrumurra College, with comments on their genesis.

#### Music.

Professor Davies' remarks in the evening were directed towards new methods for teaching musical application. Dr. A. J. Schulz presided. Dr. Davies asserted that, from a Conservatorium point of view, the training of listeners was more important than the training of the performers. He dealt with tone building, illustrated by phonographic records prepared by Dr. Walford Davies, of the Welsh University, with the idea of teaching children to create their own tunes. The records brought out clearly the elements of balance, repetition, and contrast in relation to tune building. Each point as it was made was illustrated by orchestral selections, and a number of original tunes composed by Welsh school children completed the series. The first record was that of an aboriginal corroboree, performed by members of the Arunta tribe, and taken by Professor Baldwin Spencer in Central Australia. It was unique, and illustrated one of the crudest form of music.

#### Future Arrangements.

It was decided that the conferences should be held annually, and that the papers given should be published. The following committee to take charge of the arrangements for 1924 was appointed:—Dr. H. Heaton, Mrs. J. P. Morley, and Messrs. G. L. Wood, and A. L. O. Mackay (secretary). Thanks were passed to the committee who were responsible for this year's meetings.

## THE EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

### THE CONCLUDING SESSIONS.

At the Adelaide University on Saturday the conference on new ideas in education was concluded.

Mr. F. K. Barton, of Turrumurra College, New South Wales, lectured on the teaching of literature to children in the afternoon, and Professor H. Davies, of the Adelaide Conservatorium, of Music, lectured in the evening on "New methods for teaching musical appreciation." There was a fair attendance in the afternoon, when the Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth, headmaster of St. Peter's College, was in the chair.

Mr. Barton said a philosophy of education was implied in the attempt to stimulate children to write poetry. The Parliamentary report on the teaching of English in England said education was primarily a guidance in the acquiring of experience, for example, by manual work or orderly investigation. The most valuable experience for children was that gained by contact with human beings, in the playground, the home, and the outer world, or solely in the inner world of thought and feeling through the records which constituted literature. A child could not afford to be deprived of contact with the great minds of the past, which could only be had through literature. How could children study poetry? The way to study a thing was to do it. Therefore children should be encouraged to write verse. Children, like all primitive beings, were keenly susceptible to rhythm. The love of beauty was one of the strongest instincts, and was invariably accompanied by a desire to express beauty. The lecturer referred to the method of teaching poetry by clearly marking the rhythm, and gave a number of illustrations of verses written by children under his charge.

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pinus insignis. It seems, therefore, reasonable to conclude that a sound pinus insignis forest would in a comparatively short time, provide enough timber to supply all the needs of our South Australian railways. The timber, too, could be produced intensively instead of culling sleepers from wide areas, and then not getting the best or sufficient for requirements. The creosoted pine sleeper could, properly conserved, make this State independent of outside supplies—and a similar remark applies to woodblocks. The cost of growing pines in South Australia is relatively small in comparison with that of producing hardwoods. Briefly epitomized, one effect of experiments by scientists with native timbers is to justify the growing of softwood forests here for many kinds of economic uses, and impregnating them with creosote to ensure their durability. In contrast to the development of hardwoods, both time and money would be saved in this way. There is no need to enlarge upon the fact that when the South Australian Forest Department announced that it had a good supply of pinus insignis available for the market, the announcement was treated with indifference, if not disdain, in certain quarters, on account of the disbelief in the virtues of the wood as a commercial timber; and this is stated to be the reason why the Government started a timber-milling business at Wirrabarra to do what private traders would not undertake. Equally manifest at that time and long after was the low estimation in which our stringybark was held by dealers, who (now that its beauty and usefulness in cabinet work have been demonstrated beyond cavil) are unable to obtain as much of it as they would like to have.

#### Economic Uses. State Forests.

Shortly after Mr. Corbin arrived in South Australia, he was impressed with the great economic value of the Wirrabarra forest, and urged the cutting and sale of the over-matured trees. With another officer (Mr. Kissell) he surveyed the forest. The State Conservator of Forests (Mr. Walter Gill) then published instructive returns concerning the plentiful available supply of timber and the attention which forestry deserved from private investors as a profitable industry. Tenders were invited for the pines on a measurement system not now considered to be the best for the State, and it has been superseded, with the result that the price obtained is substantially more. At the Interstate Conference of Foresters, held at Brisbane in 1922, Mr. Gill gave some remarkable and enticing figures regarding a plantation of pinus insignis covering an area of 73½ acres. This forest had produced 5 million super feet of wood, the sale of which had realized £21,000. After allowing £5 an acre as the estimated cost of the land, besides fencing, planting, and all other legitimate debts, the net average return from the four blocks which comprised the aggregate amounted to £234 an acre. Distributing the calculation through the 28 years over which the enterprise was spread, the yield financially was £8 7 an acre. Another important consideration, in connection with the controversial suggestion that the land might have given a still better return if wheat had been grown upon it, is that some of the land was unfit for the growth of anything except forest trees. In discussion of the impressive statement of the economic side of forestry another objection—that there might not always be a ready sale for the timber—was met by the reminder that timber is such an expensive commodity to carry, that dealers would naturally prefer the home-grown article, other things being equal—an argument which applies to the manifest wisdom of having the forests distributed as widely as possible and radiating around centres of congested settlement. Mr. Corbin pointed out recently in an able public address that there is no need to fear any lack of a market. The import of timber to the Commonwealth is enormous, as is ready shown; and Mr. Corbin has computed the average expenditure upon Australia's timber as about £10,000 a day. With the naturally increasing cost of foreign production of the article, it is certain—unless Australia should undertake forestry on its own account on an extensive scale—that the market value of timber will steadily increase from year to year. While reflecting on this probability it will be profitable to spare a thought for the experience of various States of the Commonwealth with wattle bark, which is a product easy and cheap to produce, and brings in a quick return. Yet, some years after the South African people had imported from here seeds of the wattle, Australia not only ceased to supply its own requirements in wattle bark, but actually had to import scores of thousands of pounds of the bark produced in South Africa from Australian seed. Any more powerful demonstration of the neglect of even the simplest forestry provision for the increasing

## WOODMAN, SPARE THAT TREE.

### A FORESTRY REVIVAL.

III.—By the President S.A. Branch Forest League (Sir William Sowden).

#### Remarkable Figures.

Taking together all the factors involved, it would probably be fair to estimate that, with a well-devised plan of conservation as well as development, the saleable value of any average forest 10 years hence would be at least 25 per cent. more than it was 10 years ago. A series of interesting and valuable experiments described by Mr. Corbin, has shown, among other things of importance, that the department over which he presides is now able to give absolutely trustworthy information concerning our timbers. Another result of research in the shape of a test of durability is shown in the fact that timbers on the railway at Melrose—creosoted pinus insignis, the valuable conifer, which was introduced into the State by the late Mr. Ednie Brown—are in as good condition at present as they were at the beginning of the six years' trial to which they have been subjected. These pine sleepers were better preserved than the hardwood sleepers, owing to the antisepticity and the oil preventing the inroads of the weather, and they did not crack or "cheese." In contrast to this record such timbers as red gum, sugar gum, blue gum, and all untreated varieties, were full of serious cracks, such as open up the interior to decay. Thus the creosoted pine timber after six years' trial was in a better condition than any other timber, and was practically as good as when it was put down. The pine, indeed, is more valuable in this connection than even our most durable hardwoods—for example, red gum, which grows so much more slowly than the

## UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

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A meeting of Adelaide University Law Students' Society was held at the University on Tuesday evening. The question for debate (set by Mr. H. Thomson) was:—"A, 18 years old, and the owner of an aeroplane, flies over the house of X at a height of 1,000 ft. and the house of Y at 50 ft. Y is ill in bed on the verandah, and as the result of fright dies. A subsequently lands in a field belonging to Z. The gates to the field are locked, and Z refuses to open them or to allow A to enter to remove the plane. Z does not in any way interfere with the plane. A is sued by X for trespass and nuisance. He is also sued by the executors of Y in respect of Y's death. In addition, he is indicted for the murder of Y. A sues Z for conversion of the plane." Counsels were:—For A, Mr. J. C. Naylor; for X, Mr. G. A. Hewitt; for Z, Mr. A. Korff; for the Crown, Mr. J. S. Hardy; for Y, Mr. F. Collison (Mr. von Bertouch with him); Mr. Naylor (for A against Z for conversion of the plane) cited England v. Cowley, and said Z had no right to detain the plane, and that his prevention to access to it was conversion. Mr. Korff (for Z) argued no conversion, that Z had done nothing with the plane to indicate that he intended using it. Also, he might lawfully seize it as distress damage feasant (cited Bolen v. Roscoe). Mr. Hewitt (for X) argued that any interference with a man's property was trespass, according to the Roman law rule that a man's dominion over his property extended "ad caelos et ad inferos." Mr. Hewitt cited numerous cases. Mr. Collison and Mr. von Bertouch for Y's executors. The action is brought under Lord Campbell's Act, case of Dullien v. White cited to show that A was responsible for the damage caused by his conduct. Mr. Hardy (for the Crown) submitted that A is guilty of murder, or, alternatively, manslaughter. He defined the two crimes, and referred to Rex v. Wittig, and Reg v. Cavendish. Mr. Naylor, in defence as to trespass, said it could not be proved that passage at such great height was trespass. The claims of Y's executors could not succeed unless negligence were proved, which had not been done. As to conversion, he distinguished Boden v. Roscoe from the present case, and said no damage was done, the defence of "distress damage feasant" was not good. As to manslaughter, there was no proof that Y's death was the natural consequence of A's negligence, even supposing A to have been negligent. It was death by misadventure. The following members also spoke:—Messrs. McCabe, Reeves, M. Bednall, M. R. Krimaldt, and C. C. Crump. In delivering judgment, Mr. Thomson found that as regards trespass against X, at 1,000 ft., there was not enough authority to support an action X's claim failed. The claims of Y's executors must fail because, though A had displayed negligence, yet Y's death was not the natural and probable consequences of such negligence. The murder charge failed as no mens rea was proved, but the charge of manslaughter was proved technically, as negligence was presumed, according to Rex v. Wittig and Reg v. Cavendish. As to conversion, there must be something in the nature of attempt to establish dominion, to prove conversion. In this case Z was not a wrongdoer. He did not deal with the plane in any way, so the conversion charge fails. Judgment was entered as stated. On September 26 His Honor Mr. Justice Poole is the lecturer.