

ROSEWORTHY COLLEGE.

A Progressive Institution.

Great interest was taken in the annual distribution of diplomas and prizes at Roseworthy Agricultural College on Thursday. The assembly hall was crowded by a large number of parents, visitors, and students. The Minister of Agriculture (Hon. J. Cowan) presided, and by his side were the Director of Agriculture (Professor A. J. Perkins), Messrs. R. H. Crawford, Wallace Sandford, J. K. Samuel, John Tassie, Brig.-Gen. S. Price Weir (Public Service Commissioner), Messrs. W. L. Summers (secretary to the Minister), W. J. Adey (Superintendent of Technical Education), W. E. Rogers (Commissioner of Audit), C. J. Tuckwell, E. Coleman, P. H. Suter (Government Dairy Expert), and W. S. Kelly (Chairman of the Advisory Board of Agriculture). The diplomas and prizes were presented by Mrs. Cowan. The Minister, in opening the proceedings, said the work of the college was not appreciated as well as it should be, because many of the people, who adversely criticised it, were not conversant with the work it was doing there.

Thirty-Ninth Annual Report.

The Principal of the college (Mr. W. J. Colebatch, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.), presented the thirty-ninth annual report which, inter alia, was as follows:—

To the Hon. John Cowan, our present Minister, we accord a hearty welcome. We recognise in him a Ministerial head who is well versed in the theory and practice of agriculture. We trust that under his administration the college may make unprecedented progress and become of even greater value to the community than hitherto. In a recent letter from Sir Archibald Weigall expressed pleasure at the progress these cattle are making, and he intimated that the comprehensive report recently furnished had created widespread interest in Lincolnshire, and had given great satisfaction to the Herd Society. It is proposed to strengthen the college herd by the importation of a bull and heifer, and Sir Archibald has kindly undertaken to make the selection. However, owing to the continuance of foot-and-mouth disease in England, the embargo is still in force, and we may have to wait many months before the cattle can be shipped. It comes to few men to achieve as much as the late John Daniel Custance (the first Principal). This college will stand for ages as a memorial to his prescient mind and forceful character. Only a few days ago, there passed away another noted educationist, who was at one time closely associated with this college as an examiner. I refer to the late Mr. Frederic Chapple to whom so many men in South Australia are indebted for their early education.

Full Complement of Students.

The college has had a full complement of students during the past year, and although by reason of there being no fewer than 20 in the diploma class we shall have a larger number of vacancies than usual, the applications will again be more than we can cope with. We are to have another representative from the Murray Bridge Agricultural High School, which has already sent us a number of able lads. So far as we may judge from the calibre of those emanating from this school, fine work is being carried out by Mr. Hillen at that centre, and Mr. S. S. Jones (a diploma holder of this college) is proving a great acquisition to the school staff. The six Government scholarships offered annually are to be competed for by 10 or more candidates, which is further evidence that a course of systematic education in agriculture is coming to be valued as an advantage to those going on the land.

Old Students.

Mr. J. A. Haslam, B.Sc., has been appointed principal to the newly established King's College. He was greatly esteemed at this college when fulfilling the onerous duties of house master some years ago. Mr. E. W. Russell, who also held the appointment of house master at Roseworthy for several years has graduated as Bachelor of Arts in the Adelaide University. The present house master (Mr. H. O. Pritchard) has just negotiated successfully the final examination of the Federal Institute of Accountants, and this merits our felicitations. (Applause). I would like also to refer to the increasing amount of extra rural work performed by Messrs. Scott, Baker, Jefferis, and Quinn in connection with the Agricultural Bureau. This is very beneficial, both to the Bureau and the staff members concerned. Towards the close of last year our staff was strengthened by two appointments. Mr. Cornish, of the Lands and Survey Department, was deputed to undertake the duties of lecturer on surveying, and Mr. G. E. Lane, of the Soldier Settlement Department, was placed in charge of the course on building construction. To both these gentlemen the work of instructing students was quite new, and I gladly express pleasure at the whole-hearted manner in which they have devoted themselves to their tasks, and at the large measure of success they have attained. Among our old students, the name of Harry Kingsley Lewcock stands out prominently in the records of 1923. He has had a most successful year at the University. Mr. Eric West, B.Sc., is now on the staff of the Irrigation and Water Commission of New South Wales, in the capacity of research officer. Messrs. Ronald Haselgrove and Jack Guinand who are studying viticulture and oenology at Montpellier have made excellent progress, and when last they wrote were busy gathering experience in the chief wine making districts of France.

Good Yields and Return.

The college farm has experienced a successful year in spite of the extraordinary character of the season. The wheat yield fell a shade below the mean average of approximately 17½ bushels per acre, but the silage, hay and eaten harvests were above the average. The experiments with fat lambs have been confined on an improved and slightly more comprehensive plan. The data being collected with this important matter by Mr. R. C. Scott are destined to be of the greatest value to an industry, the success of which is fundamental to the proper development of our agricultural areas and the growth of closer settlement. Arrangements have been made with the general manager

of the Produce Department, whereby the experiments may be carried out to greater advantage than hitherto. The wool return for the year established a new record for the college, the whole clip being valued in the gross at more than £900. The dairying department has also made excellent progress. The proportion of pedigreed cows in the herd is rapidly increasing, and I anticipate that in two more seasons the whole herd will be registered in the herd book. In this connection the flock of stud Southdowns has recently been accepted by the committee of the British Longwool Flock Book. This institution will be represented at the Empire Exhibition this year by a comprehensive exhibit of cereals staged in the ear and also as grain.

Improving Farm Buildings.

Important changes have been effected in connection with the farm buildings. In place of the underground pits, which have done service for so many years, we now have two large circular silos built of reinforced concrete and having a capacity of 150 tons each. The convenience of the new arrangement is already being felt, and students of the future will no longer have their impressions of the palatability and toothsome of silage falsified by the unsavoury conditions under which their predecessors were at times compelled to labour. The mechanics' shop is now in process of transformation, and during the ensuing year it is hoped that the plans laid will be completed. The direct need at the present time is a barn. It may seem strange that after so many years we are inadequately equipped in this respect, but for this we must give the credit to the Lincoln Red Herd. Their arrival forced us to enlarge the cow byres, and this involved the absorption of the old barn which we had long outgrown. For the present resort must be had to the original stables and shearing shed for storage for our grain, but it is realized that when a proper grain storage has been provided, the conditions at the farm will be vastly improved and consequential alterations, such as the removal of the pigs to more appropriate quarters will readily be effected.

Examination Results.

The results of the examinations of the past year are also of a high order. Ninety per cent. of the third year have won the coveted diploma. We have to go back to 1912-13 for a record that will compare with this year's results. In that year there were awarded 17 diplomas, five of which were of the first class, nine of the second, and three of the third. This year we shall distribute 18 diplomas, including seven first class, and 11 second class. The dux of the college, and winner of the gold medal presented by the Royal Agricultural Society is Colin Powell Haselgrove. He gained 88.7 per cent. of available marks, securing honours in eight out of 11 subjects. He was closely followed by Edwin Frank Money with 87.9 per cent. and honours in seven subjects. In addition to these, first-class diplomas have been won by Allan Leslie Humphries (84.6 per cent. and four honours), Samuel Arnold Rudduck (83.8 per cent. and two honours), Charles Graham Samuel (82.9 per cent. and two honours), John Roger Hogarth Warren (82.5 per cent. and two honours), and Augustus Thomas Honner (80.7 per cent. and four honours). We wish for these young men bright and prosperous futures. The leading student in the second year is Wallis Verco Ludbrook, with a record percentage of 92.4. The previous highest was 92.07 per cent., obtained by the late Cyril Foster Stephens in 1911. Ludbrook's achievement has been made in the face of keen competition, the runner-up, John Charles McLeod Farnachon, having scored no less than 91.35 per cent. In the first year, we find John Sydney Phillips at the top of the list with 89 per cent., and he is being hard pressed by John Bevenham Curlewis with 88.7 per cent. This lad is a nephew of our esteemed benefactor and friend, Mr. John Tassie.

Morphett Medal and Special Prize for Dairying.

- (bequeathed by the late Mr. A. H. Morphett).—E. T. Fels.
- Outside Work (presented by the Albert Mollinex Memorial Trust).—C. G. Samuel.
- Ploughing (presented by the Director of Agriculture).—R. O. Castine.
- Viticulture (presented by the College).—C. P. Haselgrove.
- Fruit Culture (presented by Mr. D. G. Quinn).—E. F. Money.
- Knowledge of Farm Machinery (presented by the College).—E. F. Money.
- Chemistry (presented by Mr. A. T. Jefferis, B.Sc.).—E. F. Money.
- Oenology (presented by the South Australian Vinegrowers' Association).—C. P. Haselgrove.
- Veterinary Science (presented by Mr. F. E. Place, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.).—C. P. Haselgrove.
- Practical Dairying (presented by Mr. R. Baker).—A. T. Honner.
- Surveying (presented by the College).—E. F. Money.
- Valuation of Live Stock (presented by Mr. E. L. Orchard).—E. T. Fels.
- Wool-classing (presented by Mr. A. E. Hamilton).—A. T. Honner.
- Special Prize (presented by Mr. D. Menzies).—W. M. Fletcher.
- Shearing (presented by the College).—A. N. Woodroffe.
- Special Prize (presented by Mr. A. W. Robinson, M.P.).—C. G. Samuel.

Second Year Students.

- Dux of Year (medal presented by the Gawler Agricultural Society).—W. V. Ludbrook.
- College Second Prize.—J. C. McL. Farnachon.
- Agriculture and Farm Dairies (presented by the Principal).—W. V. Ludbrook.
- The T. G. H. Buring Prize in Viticulture.—J. C. McL. Farnachon.
- Outside Work (presented by the Albert Mollinex Memorial Trust).—R. J. Wilson.
- Morphett Prize in Dairying (bequeathed by the late Mr. A. E. Morphett).—J. C. McL. Farnachon.
- Veterinary Science (presented by the College).—W. V. Ludbrook.
- Physiology (presented by Mr. F. E. Place, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.).—W. V. Ludbrook.
- Chemistry (presented by the College).—J. C. McL. Farnachon.
- Book-keeping (presented by Mr. H. O. Pritchard, A.F.I.A.).—J. C. McL. Farnachon.
- Entomology (presented by the College).—F. B. Pearson.
- Wool-classing (presented by Mr. A. E. Hamilton).—G. N. Lewis.
- Special Prize (presented by Mr. D. Menzies).—J. A. Closs.
- Ploughing (presented by Mr. R. C. Scott).—R. J. Wilson.

First Year Students.

- Dux of Year (medal presented by Mr. G. Jeffrey).—J. S. Phillips.
- College Second Prize.—J. B. Curlewis.
- Agriculture and Farm Dairies (presented by the Principal).—J. B. Curlewis.
- Outside Work (presented by the Albert Mollinex Memorial Trust).—J. B. Curlewis.
- The Study of Farm Seeds (presented by Mr. W. F. Leake).—K. A. Pike.
- Botany (presented by Mr. A. J. Adams, M.A.).—R. C. Scott.
- Competitive Map Design (presented by Mr. F. E. Place, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.).—R. S. Thomas.

- Mathematics (presented by the college).—J. Z. Curlewis.
- Physics (presented by Mr. A. J. Adams, M.A.).—J. S. Phillips.
- Chemistry (presented by the college).—R. C. Scott.
- Special Prize (presented by Mr. D. Menzies).—M. M. Cameron.

Praise for the College.

The Minister said the future would be a time of keen international competition, and South Australians must make themselves more proficient to enter into that competition. He hoped the Government in the near future would be able to establish an agricultural high school at Urrbrae in order to fit men for Roseworthy College and the University, making agricultural education complete from the elementary to the scientific stages. They were grateful to prominent citizens of this State for the assistance they had given to the college—(applause)—and he hoped the useful achievements of the institution would continue.

Mr. Kelly congratulated the college on the year's performance. It challenged comparison with any similar institution in the Commonwealth. It was a distinct achievement for a property such as theirs to have grown £900 worth of wool in 12 months. In Mr. Cowan they were in the hands of an enthusiast, and one who would advance agricultural education. The college was gaining a firm hold on the community in this State, and the farmers were watching it much more curiously and closely than before. (Applause.)

Mr. Sandford said the college was fortunate to possess a principal of the calibre of Mr. Colebatch, under whose guidance it was being kept thoroughly up to date. (Applause.) Mr. Tassie and Professor Perkins and Mr. Adey also tendered their congratulations.

At the conclusion of the gathering the visitors were entertained at afternoon tea.

Register

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Pitfalls to be Avoided.

An interesting warning was given by the Principal of Roseworthy Agricultural College (Mr. W. J. Colebatch, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.) at the annual prize-giving ceremony of that institution on Thursday. He said he had from time to time addressed himself to the subject of preparatory education for those who intended to pursue agriculture, and he had always stressed the importance of a good grounding in the fundamentals as providing the best foundation upon which to build the superstructure of scientific knowledge and practical skill. The tendency to-day was towards the introduction of as much science and elementary technical training as could be crammed into the year's work at the secondary schools, and in his conception there was under such a system a danger of having the essential subjects treated somewhat perfunctorily to the detriment of the lads concerned, as well as of the higher teaching institutions.

No Substitution for Practical Experience.

In a recent issue of The British Journal of Agriculture he had found similar views expressed by the head master of the Dauntsey Agricultural School, who wrote to the following effect:—"It should be clearly understood that a good general education is just as essential for the boy who proposes to be a farmer as for any other boy, because a broad education will make him a better farmer and a better man. Success demands a man of real knowledge, which is not merely book knowledge, but practical experience coupled with scientific training. There is no substitution for practical experience. School and college may prepare the way for enlightened, more progressive, more successful work by the farmer or by the agriculturist scientist, but to each of them practical experience is essential, and this experience is not obtainable except by the sweat of the brow. Unfortunately this fact is frequently misinterpreted as a reason for neglecting general education, for the premature withdrawal of a boy from school or for specializing in agricultural subjects at too early an age."

Recognition of Fundamentals.

This statement would apply with equal force in South Australia—indeed throughout the whole Commonwealth—continued Mr. Colebatch, and he commended it to the notice of those who were called to administer institutions that sought to prepare lads for education in agriculture. The teaching of agriculture was not synonymous with the giving of instruction in the agricultural phases of the contributory sciences. As pointed out many years ago by that eminent man, Professor Wrightson, agriculture was itself a subject, a fact which was not infrequently overlooked. Many of the sciences, such as chemistry and botany, threw a flood of light on agriculture, and it was highly important that students in agriculture should receive training in them, but they were not agriculture. In other words, agriculture was not merely an orderly arrangement of facts established by the application of the various sciences to its

problems, but was in itself a comprehensive and complex subject for the full understanding of which a knowledge of many of the sciences was a prerequisite. Recognition of this fundamental definition was essential to the proper treatment of the subject, and to the correct balancing of the curriculum at an agricultural school or college. Naturally the course of instruction laid down must be in harmony with the local conditions and demands. In South Australia they needed first and foremost increased land settlement, and consequently the Roseworthy course was adapted to meet the requirements of prospective farmers rather than agricultural scientists. It had been well said that "a scheme of education that provides nothing better than half-baked scientist farmers is not agricultural education, nor does it advance the cause of agriculture." They had avoided this pitfall in the past, and he trusted would be able to steer such a course in the future as would enable them to maintain the prestige won by former students of this college.

Leading article
Register
7 MAR 1924

THE SCIENTIFIC FARMER

The history of advertising contains abundant proof of the fact that the pedant, for all his knowledge of his excellent intentions, has been a useful obstructionist in the onward and upward path of real learning. The cause of education has never been materially advanced by a Dominic Sampson; the more practical method pursued by Mr. Squeers, if developed somewhat beyond the too-strictly limited course of study at Dotheboys Hall, offers the better hope of progress. Precept and practice should never be separated by a wide gulf, or, indeed, by any gulf at all. Learning is meant to be used, and not to be industriously stored up, hidden away and finally forgotten. This is true of all education, but doubly so of that which is called "technical." In the days of widespread use of the apprenticeship system technical education was eminently direct and practical, indeed, rather too much so; and only since the advent of the professor in the industrial or trade school has there been any danger of the obscuration of the real purpose of teaching of this kind. In South Australia, there are, fortunately, several outstanding examples of the possibility of combining the most modern scientific instruction with an admirable training in the proper application of a knowledge of fundamentals to the affairs of industry. The Roseworthy Agricultural College furnishes a case in point. It was established for a very definite purpose, and those entrusted with the conduct of its affairs have always steadfastly held that purpose in view.

It is gratifying to find that the present Principal (Mr. Colebatch) is determined that the college shall maintain its enviable reputation for practical work. His speech at the prize-giving ceremony yesterday shows that his resolve springs as much from personal conviction as from a sense of duty. His conception of the ideal agricultural training is both broad and sane. He points out that no mere student of chemistry and botany—however well versed in the textbooks of these sciences, which go so far to illumine the basic facts of germination and growth—can reasonably be expected to make a good agriculturist. Agriculture is in itself a science, and, although some knowledge of chemistry and botany is indispensable to its full understanding and successful practice in the conditions which obtain to-day, the most essential part of agricultural training is experience, "not obtainable except by the sweat of the brow," as Mr. Colebatch said, quoting a British teacher. Many a practical farmer who knows nothing of chemistry will be tempted to applaud this sentiment, before, in his reading of Mr. Colebatch's speech, he comes to the other side of the question. Mr. Colebatch is by no means prepared to admit the ex-