

LEADERS OF SCIENCE TO

THE AUSTRALASIAN PARLIAMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE SCIENCE OBJECTS OF ASSOCIATION. (OUTSTANDING DISCUSSIONS)

GREAT PUBLIC BENEFACTOR

Educating the People.

The sessions of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, which will commence at the University to-day, mark an important epoch in the history of science in this State. The congress is a notable influence for good, and from its work the whole of the Commonwealth benefits.

In the promotion of the social and material wellbeing of the citizens of the Commonwealth, no body is more powerful than the association. It has many claims for the recognition and help of both the Governments and the private citizens of Australia. Without the scientist, neither this nor any other country of the world would be nearly so advanced in the knowledge of what is beneficial to mankind as is the case to-day. This week's conference will bring this matter home with renewed force.

Claims for Consideration.

The work performed by the association possesses more than one claim for consideration. It brings together the acknowledged leaders of the many forms of scientific investigation, and familiarizes them with the labours and achievements of each other. There is an obvious benefit in a scientific worker communicating the results of his special investigations to the workers in other fields of research, who in turn release their results to him. In that direction the congress can be compared to a chain of good works, each link of which is the specializing scientist. The separate links can do little by themselves, but when joined together in the one big chain the concerted whole can do much. The association provides the linking process.

A further highly important feature of the work of the congress is the placing before the public the multifarious activities of all the branches of science. This is done through the medium of the valuable reports issued by the congress. People engaged in everyday life have little time or opportunity of keeping in touch with the progress made in the various fields of scientific research. It is of the utmost importance that the man in the street should realize how much he owes to the labourers in that field, and the present conference will do much toward that realization, and will also bring up to date his knowledge of the latest developments in the scientific world.

South Australia's Gain.

The gain to South Australia as a result of the conference will be considerable. Not only will it help the local branch in the matter of membership—the membership has increased in the last few weeks to nearly 500—but it will also awaken the people of the State to be value of scientific work. The conference, it is hoped, will result in the inauguration of a movement to keep prominently alive the interest in science and its claims to the gain of all concerned. In this State the widest attention to research is one of the most urgent needs of the day. As a producing State we owe more to science than to any other of the branches of learning which compete with it for public attention, for there are no limits to what it has done, and can do, to promote the general health, wellbeing, and prosperity of the people.

The Welfare of Mankind.

Hardly Discovered; Freely Given.

The work of the association is not confined to any one class, or to any branch of scientific study. Its main aim is to extend the usefulness of science in the promotion of both the material and the social wellbeing of the people.

The scientists connected with it crave no fame, nor do they seek to protect themselves behind patent rights. They give to the world freely for the betterment of the position of the people. They seek to educate by working with the public generally, and in the securing of their confidence and respect by the improvement of the material condition of mankind. It is recognised that the co-operation of the workers in the various departments of science by joining together can do much more to alleviate the position of the people than could ever be secured by single efforts. This co-operation is secured in the biennial meetings of the conference. At the meetings, the workers in the various sections become well known to each other. The association finds out the basic needs of all, correlates and co-ordinates the work of all, and acts as the spokesman for all in the special and urgent matters in which individual sectional interests may be labouring under definite disabilities. The association, in that way carries much more weight, as it can put the claims of any one section backed up by the weight of all the other sections.

Association's Great Prestige.

The association has secured great prestige in Australia, and in every country of the world. This has been secured by the deliberate choice of the greatest and most eminent names in Australian and New Zealand science for leaders, and by the taking of a definite stand in the maintaining of an impartial and rigorous examination of the relative merits of the cases presented for recommendation. The general public recognises to a large extent what they owe to the association, by their annual subscriptions, and the Governments of the various States also contribute largely to the funds which alone can keep the association in activity. The association accomplishes its work by its power of inspiration, through education and by example. Thus it will be seen that it is a body of the first importance as an educating influence with the general public. The value of the work done for Australia by this assembly can hardly be overrated.

How Work is Done.

The work of the association is conducted by a general council. Included in its duty is the appointing of the dates and places at which the conferences are to be held, the selection of the President, the appointment of the general officers, and the appointment of officers to become members of the council. The actual scientific work of the conference is carried out by sections. These are constituted from time to time by the general committee. At present there are 13 sections, and one subsection. These sections select definite objects for research for the periods following the conference, and to them are reported the results of those researches. In the promotion of research they may appoint either individuals or committees. They take into consideration the branches or aspects of knowledge, on the state and progress of which reports are required, and make recommendations and nominate individuals or research committees, to whom the task of research may be committed. Those committees cover

practically every branch of science by their researches, and their recommendations have resulted in many important movements for the advancement of science being inaugurated.

Important Matters Listed.

The Week's Programme.

There are many outstanding discussions listed for the week, and upon them will depend the direction of many of the scientific researches conducted during the next two years.

Important Papers.

The most important paper to be delivered will be that of the incoming President, Sir John Monash. This will be on "Power development," and will be given at the Adelaide Town Hall to-night, on the occasion of his induction to the presidential chair, by the retiring President, Sir George Knibbs. Next in importance to the general public are the lectures at the Adelaide Town Hall by Mr. E. T. Fisk, Sir James Barrett, and Capt. Pitt Rivers on "Recent developments in wireless telegraphy" (Wednesday evening), "Venereal diseases" (Thursday night), and "Vanishing races" (Friday night) respectively. The addresses by the sectional Presidents



SIR GEORGE KNIBBS, retiring President of the Congress.

THE SOCIAL SIDE.

Much of the value of the conference would be lost were it not for the social side. This enables delegates to become better acquainted with each other. There is a long programme of social amenities arranged. At midday to-day there will be a civic reception. On Tuesday night His Excellency the Governor, who is the South Australian Patron of the Association, will hold a reception at Government House. On Thursday afternoon the President (Sir John Monash) will hold a reception at the Adelaide Town Hall; and on Friday the Lord Mayor will be at home to the members of the association at the Adelaide Town Hall. These functions are for all members. In addition, many trips have been arranged. The astronomy, mathematics, and physics section will journey to several parts of the metropolitan area and to other parts of the State. The chemistry section will



SIR TOM BRIDGES, South Australian Patron of the Science Congress.

visit Burford's soapworks at Dry Creek on Wednesday afternoon, and in addition other excursions have been arranged. The geography section will make an excursion to Norton's Summit on Wednesday afternoon, and to Port Adelaide on Friday afternoon. The social science section will journey to Holden's, Duncan & Fraser's, and the South Australian Woollen Mills on Monday afternoon; to Penfold's winery, Pengelly's, and Birks's Welfare Scheme on Wednesday, and through the hills on Saturday. The engineering section will journey to Holden's, Osborn power house, and the Torrens Gorge road, and the Millbrook Reservoir on Thursday. The agricultural section will visit Roseworthy College on Friday and the Kuitpo Forest on Saturday, and the veterinary science section will go to the Roseworthy College on Saturday. In addition to the trips outlined, many others are being arranged.

BENEFITING THE COMMUNITY.

Important Work of the Congress.

Adequate Subsidy a Necessity.

That the conference of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, to commence to-day, is of exceptional importance to the public of Australia, in that it will act as a stimulant to the intellectual and scientific effort of the whole community, is the opinion of Sir George Knibbs (President).

Sir George reached Adelaide by the Melbourne express on Saturday morning. He remarked that the people of Australia at the present time seemed to be suffering from the fact that there was not in this country at the present time the intellectual reaction that was characteristic of

will be given to their various sections in the sections rooms at the University on Tuesday and Wednesday. They are:—

Tuesday morning—"The development of the ideas of space and time," by Professor D. M. Y. Somerville to the astronomy section; by Professor A. C. D. Rivett to the chemistry section; "Volcanic activity in Queensland," by Dr. H. C. Richards, to the geology section; "Efficiency in modern life," by Professor H. Whitfield, to the engineering section; "Vitamines and fruit in diet," by Professor Purdt, to the sanitary science section; "Cancer in the domesticated animals," by Mr. C. Dodd, to the veterinary science section; and "Ecologic conditions of vegetation in Tasmania," to the botany section, by Mr. L. Rodway.

Tuesday afternoon—"Some problems of evolution and genetics," by Professor W. E. Agar, to the zoology section; "Sailing directions," to the geography and history section, by Capt. J. K. Davis; "Monetary policy, and its reactions upon Australia," by Professor D. B. Copeland, to the social science section; "Vocational guidance," by Mr. J. Nangle, to the mental science section.

Wednesday morning—"Pharmaceutical progress," by Mr. E. F. Grist, to the pharmaceutical subsection of the chemistry section; "The origin and relationships of the material culture and decorative art of the Maoris of New Zealand," by Mr. H. D. Skinner, to the ethnology section; and "Problems of the world's food supply," by Professor R. D. Watt, to agriculture section.