

# DR. A. E. V. RICHARDSON.

## Another Victorian Eulogy.

The following editorial comments appear in the July issue of The Longerenong Collegian, Victoria:—The establishment of the Peter Waite Research Institute in South Australia, and the appointment to its directorship, of Dr. A. E. V. Richardson has, at a timely moment, focussed public attention on the value of research in agriculture. On every hand one sees evidences of an altered attitude towards the scientist and an awakening to the value of his work. A few years ago, the best that could be hoped for was tolerance, but it was a very contemptuous tolerance. He was regarded as a theorist purely and simply, his theories having no relation to the practical problems of the man on the land. At the last Farmers' Convention demands came from all sides for more departmental experts to carry out experiments, and to advise the farmers as to the best methods for the varying conditions of their respective districts. Dr. Richardson's appointment has been signalled by the requests from all parts of Victoria that no stone be left unturned in an endeavour to retain his services. The reason is obvious. The scientific worker in agriculture has "delivered the goods," and the practical man, because he is a practical man, has recognised the fact.

### Adoption of Right Methods.

There can be no doubt that the success has been due to the adoption of right methods, which goes to prove that the truly scientific attitude of mind and the truly scientific methods are, after all, the only reasonable ones. In his work in Victoria, Dr. Richardson has made it an invariable rule, that the final appeal must be made to the plant, growing under practical every day conditions. For example, in the Wimmera, plots were laid out at Longerenong Agricultural College, and Dr. Richardson, acting in conjunction with the college authorities, set out to determine the best methods to be adopted for wheat-growing throughout the district. He very definitely decided the lines along which he was to proceed. There were five different aspects to consider. First, the best methods of conserving soil moisture had to be determined; secondly, there were the improvement of existing varieties of wheat, the discovery of wheats most suited to the district and the breeding of new varieties; in the third place, the problem of rates of seeding and manuring had to be solved; again there was the determination of the best time for sowing; and lastly, the most suitable system of rotation for the district had to be discovered. Having established the plots and obtained results, the next thing was to invite the farmers to come, see, and hear. At first the response was not very great, but it was encouraging. Gradually it has developed until at the tenth annual field day, held at the college last year, there were many hundreds present. The function is regarded as one of the most important in the district.

Similar work has been and is being done in other parts of the State; not only in connection with wheat growing, but also with regard to irrigation problems, maize cultivation, top dressing of pastures, and so on.

### Tribute to Dr. Cameron.

While it is impossible to estimate too highly the value of the services that the brilliant Dr. Richardson has rendered to the State, it must not be forgotten that his work has been rendered possible by the policy of the Director of Agriculture (Dr. S. S. Cameron). His foresight and breadth of vision has enabled him to shape a policy for his department, which has included the securing of Dr. Richardson's services, and the giving of free scope for his talents. Victoria owes much to these talented gentlemen. And now, a greater work in a wider sphere calls Dr. Richardson from our State. Many would keep him here. Surely that would be short-sighted on our part. In his new position he will be able to devote his energies to research work along many lines. His work will not be for South Australia alone, but for Australia as a whole. A little thought will convince all, that Victoria will gain more by cheerfully speeding him on his way to greater things. Three publications by Dr. Richardson—"Wheat and its Cultivation," "Agricultural Education and Development in America," and "Water Requirements of Farm Crops"—are masterly productions, and reveal the thoroughness of the man. In a large measure his success may be attributed to this characteristic. Other factors are his outstanding personality, the soundness of his methods, his agreeable platform manner, and a confidence born of certain knowledge. Following upon the announcement of his doctorate came that of Dr. Richardson's appointment to the recently established Peter Waite Institute in South Australia, where he will have almost unlimited opportunities for research work. Dr. Richardson has earned the gratitude of the State of Victoria, and will carry with him the sincerest good wishes of its population for a great

Miss D. L. Poote, M.A., of Adelaide University and Newnham College, Cambridge, who has for four years been head mistress of the Church of England Diocesan Grammar School for Girls at Ballarat, has resigned that post in order to take the head mistresship of Abbotsleigh, Wahroonga, near Sydney. This well-known school, hitherto conducted on a private basis, has now been taken over, and is possessed by a church council. Miss Poole will enter upon her new duties in September.

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vince me that Norman Lindsay's pictures are anything but indecent. All picture plays are subject to a strict censorship before being publicly screened. If a picture show such as the present at Preece's Galleries can be put on at any time in the name of "art"—well!

From "A FATHER":—As a lover of nature and everything that is natural, I find it rather amusing to read the comments of some of your correspondents on this subject. Having seen the pictures under discussion, and admired them from an artistic standpoint, I cannot help saying that "old maidish" persons (male and female) will undoubtedly give loud voice to their opinions. These scoffers at everything that is artistic and natural are not hard to detect. Such persons (especially females) are generally of the morbid variety. They love to butt into other people's business, and if some poor unmarried girl has had the misfortune to obey nature, how these "Mother Grundys" talk. But, I suppose, we shall always have them with us. It would be well for them to remember that to the pure all things are pure; also, that it is necessary to cultivate a healthy and natural body to have a healthy and broad mind.

From "DON ESPINO":—"E.W.P." states that Mr. Norman Lindsay, by his uncompromising rugged forms, will make Australia a second Greece in art. I fail to recall to memory any of the magnificent remains of the art of that glorious country in the galleries of Europe or the Vatican at Rome, which resemble in character and posture some of Mr. Lindsay's work. Grecian sculpture is noted for its chaste, pure, facial expression which is the mirror of the soul, and its living gracefulness of form, and not for alluring, seductive look and movement found in many of the pictures in Mr. Lindsay's exhibition. This expression of features savors rather more of the print shops of the Rue de Rivoli—if I remember rightly. We take exception, not to his pictures of the human figure unadorned, tranquil, and pure, but to those seething with riot, passion, and the worst side of human nature which offend the eye. Nobody disputes the consummate skill and beautiful coloring displayed by Mr. Lindsay; as an artist he is second to none. But one is forced to the conclusion that he has struck the wrong note in some of his pictures. We are much indebted to Professor Phillipson for his able criticism, and as an associate of the Society of Arts I thoroughly endorse its verdict.

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## LEAVES £33,000

### Estate of Mrs. Raven

The will of Mrs. Jessie Franco Raven, late of the South Australian Hotel, has been filed for probate. The estate is sworn not to exceed £33,000.

The will states:—"To my husband, Alexander James Raven, I give and bequeath my estate in the event of his surviving me."

To the Chancellor of the Adelaide University is left £3,000 for the purpose of establishing lectures "for the promotion, advancement, teaching, and diffusion of the study of philosophy to be named after my father, Gavin David Young, formerly of South Australia, and to be called 'The Gavin David Young lectures.'"

Mrs. Raven bequeathed oil paintings and valuable books to the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery.

## NOT AN EXTRAVAGANCE

### Australia House in London

#### DR. LENDON APPROVES

Dr. Lendon, who recently returned from a trip to Europe, paid a tribute to Australia House and Sir Edward Lucas (Agent-General) when addressing members of the Commonwealth Club at the Adelaide Town Hall today.

Dr. Lendon, a former president of the club, said that Australia House, with its stone and marble that has been imported from Australia, was looked upon as a huge extravagance. He considered, however, that it was a grand advertisement for the Commonwealth. It had been even whispered that the house was not far from being a paying proposition. However, if that were true, the fact would probably have been made known to the Australian public.

It was an excellent thing for South Australia that it had such a live wire as Sir Edward Lucas as Agent-General.

The Royal Institution, presided over by Sir William Bragg, was a place of interest for Australian visitors. Professor Bragg and his son were gathering round them a body of able research students from all parts of the world.

Dr. Lendon remarked that he found the London winter weather depressing, so he visited the Spanish Main. At Venezuela and Costa Rica he had been impressed with the excellence of the motor roads.

At Cartagena a hotel tout thrust into his hand a card which guaranteed sanitation, culture, and morality at the hotel. He visited Crete, Smyrna, and the Bosphorus. Athens, Corfu, Sicily, and Corsica were also seen. He learnt that foreign countries were planting vines to an enormous extent. Who was going to consume all the surplus from the Cape, Algeria, and the Mediterranean Littoral?

At Durban he had been shown round by Sister Foster, formerly a District Trained Society nurse in Adelaide. At the Natal Club he met Mr. David Fowler, the sugar king, and formerly a South Australian. Mr. Roy Elston, literary editor to Thomas Cooke & Son in London, by the way a former Australian, was a person they would hear more of. He was receiving a huge salary, and was only about 27 years of age. Dr. Lendon added he was satisfied that Australia could not teach English in the way of strikes. The tube railway strike was in progress when he left London.

Mr. S. H. Skipper presided at the luncheon.

## ADELAIDE COMPOSER

### Piece for Conservatorium

#### BUILT UPON FAIRY STORY

Of much interest to Adelaide audiences is a composition to be given at the Conservatorium on Monday evening by the women's part-singing class, assisted by pupils of Mr. Winsloe Hall and Madame Delmar Hall.

The work has been written specially for the occasion by Mr. Harold Wylde, F.R.C.O., the well-known accompanist and organist. It is for two soloists, and is built upon one of Tom Hood's inimitable fairy stories, "The Two Swans."

#### IMPRISONED SWAN.

A swan is imprisoned in a gloomy keep, encircled by a glittering serpent, while his mate swims slowly around his place of duration upon the shadowed waters of the lake, which reflect her beauty in their depths. She lifts her silvery voice in a song of deathless love, and is answered by the captive. In the end "love, ungentle malice foils," and the two swans are reunited. Swimming to the farthest edge of the lake, they change into

"A gentle girl and boy,  
Locked in embrace of unutterable joy."  
The composition is modern in style and structure, but maintains melodious proportions throughout. Some effective whole-tone scale passages occur—a modern experiment in musical art—and serve to depict the sinister effect of the snake's influence.

#### SENT TO LONDON.

Mr. Wylde is a South Australian by birth, and early evincing a love of music and distinct executive ability, was sent to London to further his studies at the Royal College of Music, where he became a pupil of the late Sir Walter Parratt. There he gained the diploma of Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, and was appointed assistant organist at the Lincoln Cathedral, a position he held for some years.

Returning to South Australia, Mr. Wylde joined the staff of the Elder Conservatorium as teacher of piano and organ. During the last two winters he has given a series of lunch-time organ recitals in the Elder Hall, which have been much appreciated.

As an accompanist at many musical events in the Adelaide Town Hall he has earned high praise for his sympathetic interpretation in this important executive capacity. As a composer Mr. Wylde will probably be heard for the first time in Adelaide, but other works from his pen will be welcomed.

The lack of suitable choral works for female voices has induced more than one composer to come to the aid of the Conservatorium women's part-singing class. Mr. Bryceon Treharne, during his residence in Adelaide, wrote an "Ode to Spring," but after the first performance it was found too structurally difficult for class work, and was never repeated. The present work, though dignified in style, is within the scope of the average well-trained women's choir.

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## UNIVERSITY SPORTS.

Messrs. D. Mellish, B. Harford, and P. R. Ohlstrom as committee representing Adelaide University Sports, have secured the services of the Repertory Theatre, and Conservatorium students to give a concert to raise funds to help defray the heavy personal expenses of the forthcoming inter-State University contests. The Adelaide Debating team are going to Brisbane. Adelaide holds the championship at present, and the baseball team to Sydney (here again Adelaide

is on top). The football and lacrosse games are in Adelaide this year. Adelaide University is not properly represented when visiting other States, because many of the best players cannot afford to pay out of their own pocket the heavy expenses of the trip, and the committee hopes to overcome this difficulty in some slight way at any rate. University girls are making sweets at home for sale during the evening. Artists include Mrs. Wilfred Niell, Misses Stoneham, Alice McEgan, Kathleen Meehan, Jean Sinclair, Phyllis Everett, Alice Mallon, and Messrs. Royston Marcus, B. Kearney, J. Davoren, R. Watson, W. Runge, Williamson, and J. Mellish, H. Treloar, and B. Harford.

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Dr. R. Q. L. Grant has been appointed hon. surgeon to inpatients at the Children's Hospital during the absence of Dr. Rischbieth on leave, and Dr. L. C. Lendon will act as hon. physician to outpatients during the absence on leave of Dr. F. N. Le Messurier.

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## ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

A concert will be given by the Elder Conservatorium Ladies' Part-singing Class (under the direction of Mr. Winsloe Hall) next Monday in the Elder Hall. Great interest attaches to the first performance of the fairy ballad, "The Two Swans," for soli and chorus, which has been specially written for the part-singing class by Mr. Harold Wylde, F.R.C.O. The soloists for this item will be Miss Valda Harvey and Miss Stella Sobels. Another important item will be the operatic excerpt from act 1, scene 1, "The Rheingold" (Wagner). The part of Alberich will be taken by Mr. Richard Watson. Another concerted item will be "In Sherwood Forest," a vocal intermezzo by Lehmann. Mr. Harold Wylde will be the organist, and Miss Muriel Prince, A.M.U.A., and Mr. Herbert Edwards, A.M.U.A., will be the accompanists. The plan and programmes are at Allan's.

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## ITINERANT IMPRESSIONS.

### Dr. Lendon at Commonwealth Club.

A luncheon was given at the Adelaide Town Hall on Thursday by the Commonwealth Club, to welcome Dr. A. A. Lendon, the Past President, on his return from a trip abroad. The President