

Sir Archibald Thomas Strong, M.A., Litt. D., is a Jury Professor in English Language and Literature at the University of Adelaide, a position he has held since March, 1922. He is paying a visit to England. He is a son of Dr. H. A. Strong, who was at one time Professor of Classics



Sir Archibald Strong.

in the University of Melbourne, in which city Sir Archibald was born in 1876. He was educated in England, his father having been appointed Professor of Latin in the University of Liverpool. After a successful career at Sedburgh School and the University of Liverpool, at which he was the Baring prizeman in Greek, Sir Archibald became an exhibitor at Magdalen College, Oxford, afterwards studying in Germany and at the Middle Temple. In 1902 he returned to Australia, and in 1913 received an appointment as a lecturer in English at Melbourne University, and acting Professor in English Language and Literature three years later. For five years prior to coming to Adelaide he held the position of chief film censor for the Commonwealth. Sir Archibald Strong has published several books, including three volumes of original verse, and a verse translation of the "Ballades of Theodoric de Bauville," with critical essay. He has also published a volume of literary essays, entitled "Peradventure," and an edition of "King Lear," with a glossary, notes, and appendices. Although he twice volunteered for active service during the war, he was rejected, but he brought his literary gifts to the service of the Commonwealth, publishing "Australia and the War" in 1916, and "The Story of the Anzacs" in 1917.

Professor W. Mitchell (vice-chancellor of the University), when seen last night with regard to Professor Strong's knighthood, said he was delighted to hear the news, and a cablegram would be sent to the professor next day on behalf of the whole University, expressing their congratulations. Professor Strong had done valuable work both in Adelaide and in Melbourne. As he was the only Australian who had been knighted solely on account of his eminence as a man of letters, a great distinction had been conferred.

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NATIONAL FORESTRY SCHOOL.

In connection with the establishment by the Federal Government of a national forestry school, the Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) stated on Tuesday that in pursuance of the recent decision by the Cabinet he had communicated with the Premiers of all the States in order to ascertain the number of students for which each State would undertake to be responsible. The question was considered at the Inter-State Forestry Conference in 1921, when the heads of the various departments agreed to the following numbers for a two-years' course:—New South Wales, 3; Victoria, 9; Queensland and Western Australia, 4 each; South Australia and Tasmania, 2 each; or 26 students in all. The number seemed small in view of the enormous task that confronted Australia in getting her forestry house in order, and some States might desire to revise their quotas. The decision to establish the national forestry school at Canberra under Federal auspices had met with general approval. It was particularly welcomed by senior foresters, who had experienced much difficulty in the past in getting qualified officers to carry out the forestry work. One of these, telegraphing his congratulations, added:—"This is the biggest forward move in forestry since the passing of the Western Australian Act." The head of the Creswick school spoke very much to the point when he addressed a Parliamentary party on the 15th. "We will welcome the creation of the Federal school, even if it means the closing down of our institution. Some further system of training should be developed so that we could have a higher service. I believe that the Federal school will provide that service." Replies from the States were awaited, Mr. Bruce added, to enable financial provision to be made on the Estimates now under consideration.

Cable advice was received in Adelaide on Wednesday by Mr. J. A. Coonan from his daughter Miss Rita Coonan, that Dame Nellie Melba had appointed her to the staff of the Melba Conservatorium, Melbourne. Miss Coonan indicated that she



Miss RITA COONAN.

intended to leave England in July to take up the appointment. On the occasion of her recent birthday, Dame Melba gave a party at her London residence, and Miss Coonan was among several singers who contributed selections. Miss Coonan, who is a soprano, is a native of Adelaide, and left this city a few years ago for advanced study abroad.

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Mr. George Pearce, who is the younger son of the Rev. John Pearce of Brompton Methodist Church, was born in South Australia and educated at Prince Alfred College. A student of Mr. William Silver he won that well-known musician's scholarship for pianoforte for five years in succession, and also studied the art of ensemble playing under the late Mr. Eugene Alderman.



MR. GEORGE PEARCE

On the outbreak of the war he enlisted and left Australia with the original 11th Field Ambulance under Col. Downey. During the battle of Messines in 1917 he was gassed and invalided. While in France he conducted the orchestra attached to the 3rd. Division Headquarters under Gen. Monash, and in conjunction with the divisional concert party gave a successful season in Paris. On the signing of the armistice and consequent demobilisation Mr Pearce returned to London, where he entered the Royal Academy of Music, taking the piano as his principal subject for study under the late Oscar Beringer and singing as a secondary subject. Returning to South Australia, Mr Pearce joined the staff of the Conservatorium in 1920 as a teacher of pianoforte, and he has done valuable work in the studio and upon the concert platform as well as fulfilling many outside professional engagements. He is a virile player and last year assisted in the performance of Percy Grainger's "The Warriors" at a private recital given by the composer at the Adelaide Town Hall. As an accompanist Mr. Pearce has done admirable work, his sympathetic interpretation always lending the right support to the soloist, whether vocal or instrumental. When not engaged in professional work Mr. Pearce is an ardent motorist and tennis and golf player.

Report by Dr. F. N. Le Messurier.

Activities to Preserve Infant Life.

Dr. F. N. Le Messurier, who was given an honorary commission by the Executive Council to enquire into and report upon the question of babies' hospital administration and children's welfare work in the United States of America, obtained interesting information during a trip from which he recently returned to Adelaide. The doctor has presented his report to the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley), and this is now being considered by the Government.

Dr. Le Messurier, in his report, states:—"Infant mortality is a symptom-complex, whose diverse factors, hereditary, congenital, and environmental, when judiciously balanced and assessed present a composite picture of community life of absorbing interest and of practical socio-medical value. The mortalities traced to their finer ramifications reveal not only the sanitary status of the community, but its social, economic, and moral aspects as well. By a respectable and ever-enlarging body of public health workers interested in child hygiene, the infant has come to be regarded as the most sensitive index we have of social and sanitary progress. Growing out of careful and extensive study fortified by the accumulated experience of many communities where extensive hygiene work has been carried on, there has come to the conviction that infant mortality can, and should be, largely prevented. The causes of infant morbidity and mortality are largely preventable, and man can himself do much, if he will, to mitigate and prevent them."

Eliminating the Unfit.
The doctor quoted an eminent public health authority, Sir Arthur Newsholm, who, he said, had shown in a series of classical reports to the local governing board of England that "a high infant mortality in a given community implies, in general, a high death rate in the next few years of life; while low death rates at both age periods are similarly associated. In other words, there was a "very high correlation between the amount of infant mortality, and mortality at ages of one to five." Dr. Holt, who was intimately associated with the child hygiene movement in the United States since its beginning, was equally convinced that "a high infant mortality is in no sense a protection to our body politic. We must eliminate the unfit by birth, not by death. The race is to be most effectively improved by preventing marriage and reproduction by the unfit among whom would be classed the diseased, the degenerates, the defectives, and the criminal. In working for the survival of the feeble and unfortunate, we are not contravening Nature's law and striving to save the unfit. A high infant mortality results in a sacrifice of the unfortunates, not the unfit."

Value of Natural Milk.
The report deals effectively with the subjects of infant mortality and damaged rates among survivors, the infant mortality on the general death rate, pre-natal and neo-natal mortality, infant feeding, in which it is stated that investigations have proved that mothers' milk is not only the best protection against the gastro-intestinal diseases, but also that babies taking it thrive more normally and appear to exhibit a greater immunity to the infectious diseases. Other subjects dealt with are the relation of heat to infant mortality, pre-natal care, the influence of syphilis, which reveals that congenital syphilis is a cause of early death in more cases than the death returns seem to indicate. It is now generally held by those who have carefully studied the results of modern research that tuberculosis is largely a childhood infection by direct contact with open cases of the disease. There is no question that tuberculous milk may infect a child. "But in those countries where special attention has been given to the milk supply, pasteurization, or boiling, is almost universal, and the danger from milk infection is slight."

Immunity from Infection.
Dealing with acute communicable diseases, Dr. Le Messurier states that the next grand advance in the prevention of contagious diseases of childhood must be the prevention of infant infection from whooping cough and measles, and in the immunization of diphtheria. In San Francisco the populace is being educated to the immunization against diphtheria and all children can be immunized at the Well Baby Clinics, free of charge. The toxin and anti-toxin used in the immunization are supplied by the local board of health. To meet the pressing needs of the enlarging dispensary problem in the United States social service departments, connected with the hospitals, have been created. This social service is of inestimable value, and it is apparent that in

the next future Australia must follow the example set by the United States. The modern medical school in the United States has its share in the sharing of ideas regarding the social, as well as the medical, treatment of children.

University Instruction.
Dr. Le Messurier reports that his investigations have led him to believe that a modern pediatric department is absolutely essential in the University of Adelaide, to enable the State to receive the full benefits of child welfare work. The function of a modern pediatric (treatment of the diseases of children) department of a university medical school is, therefore, no longer merely to instruct how to examine and prescribe for sick babies, nor to utilize them as so much clinical material for the instruction of medical students. The use of babies for instructive purposes must not be overlooked, but it involves a wider social significance than was formerly believed. To meet the insistent needs of a city-wide public health service to the children, especially for those of tender years, it seems best to group or work into so-called welfare centres as integral parts of health centres to become completely co-ordinated with all the public health activities of a health district. They must, therefore, regard the infant welfare centre as a health educational centre of the district in all that pertains to the welfare of the child. Here, not only the mothers with their babies would meet the regular physician and nurses in attendance, but groups of medical students and pupils would gather for instruction in the best methods of infant hygiene.

Infant Welfare Centres.
The doctor, in his report, also deals at length with the function of an infant welfare centre, the future development of infant welfare work, and the need for health teaching in schools. In the latter connection he remarks that systematic and effective teaching of health in the schools is not only possible, but it is practicable. In the present state of knowledge, or, rather ignorance in essential health matters, it is indispensable. Upon the health of our people very largely depends not only their comfort, contentment, and happiness, but also their physical efficiency; in a certain sense, our future as a nation. The educators of South Australia certainly cannot ignore the claims of health teaching in a system of compulsory education. In regard to the preservation of infant life, the California State Board of Health distributes pamphlets to expectant mothers, giving instructions as to how they should act so as to retain their health, and have normally healthy children. To his report, Dr. Le Messurier attaches 10 separate samples of these letters.

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ORCHESTRAL MUSIC.

From A. E. MORRIS, Unley:—As a lover of music I must congratulate Mr. W. H. Foote on the great success that has attended his efforts as conductor of the South Australian Orchestra, but it would have been more creditable to him had he not have tried to detract from the wonderful success that has been achieved in Unley by Mr. Norman Sellick with his young band of players. I have followed their career from their first attempt, and to me, as to many another citizen of Unley, the results have been wonderful. Mr. Sellick must possess wonderful enthusiasm for his art to found and stick to a project such as this young orchestra, with no capital and no experienced players. The difficulties must surely have at times seemed almost insurmountable. I know that Mr. Sellick's violin section is composed of his own students. This would necessitate far more instruction than in Mr. Foote's case, where a big body of experienced players is at his disposal. Mr. Sellick is a young man with great possibilities, and in his self-imposed task, without remuneration, to create an orchestra for Unley, he should have the support of all members of the musical profession, who should not try to lessen the praise he so richly deserves. To Mr. Sellick I would say, go on with the good work that you have started, for Unley is proud of you and your orchestra.

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Dr. H. Heaton will deliver a public lecture to-night in the Institute Room on "Cross-Sectioning European Opinion," under the auspices of the Women's Non-Party Association. Attention of members of the association is called to an advertisement of the association is called to an advertisement of a special meeting to-morrow.