

CHAIR OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMICS

There appear to be doubts about the teaching of economics at the Adelaide University. In an excellent speech at the annual dinner of the Commerce Students' Association Mr. Wallace Bruce (President of the Chamber of Commerce) referred to the matter.

He said that he took it that the establishment of a chair in any subject was a public recognition by the community that it was of sufficient educational and social importance to warrant special study. Mr. Bruce did not seem to have any doubts in respect of the teaching of commerce. It was when he came to the question of economics that he was inclined to shy.

Having rightly defined economics as the study of the material welfare of the people, he declared that he would be sorry "if it resulted in clouding the University in a murky haze of party politics." It is a little difficult to understand that remark. Party politics cannot very well enter into the teaching of economics, and nothing has been said or done at the University which could possibly suggest such a thing.

If, as Mr. Bruce admitted, economics "is the study of the material welfare of the people," there is no subject taught of more transcendent importance. We in Australia need more and not less of that kind of study. It is because of a lack of this knowledge that so many mistakes have been made in our commercial, industrial, political, and economic history.

What is there in this community which makes the teaching of the subject more difficult or hazardous than in any other? In most of the leading universities of the world economics can be studied without any serious risk of clouding them in "a murky haze of party politics." Surely the dangers which Mr. Bruce seems to sense are not very real.

In any case, to attempt to teach commerce without a grounding in economics would be ridiculous. The two things—if they are two—are inseparable. There is just a suspicion that it is the fear expressed by Mr. Bruce which has caused the Adelaide University to lag behind the other big universities.

The establishment of a Chair of Commerce and Economics is long overdue. Most people who understand anything about the matter regard the departure of Dr. Heaton as a loss to South Australia. Had a chair been established a few years ago and properly equipped it is hardly likely that Canada would have been able to lure him away.

THE GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION.

CONSTITUTION AMENDED.

The fifth annual meeting of the Graduates' Association of the University of Adelaide was held at the Elder Conservatorium last night, with the president (Dr. E. Harold Davies) in the chair.

It was proposed by Mr. C. T. Madigan—"That the membership of the association shall consist of graduates of the University of Adelaide, or of any University recognised by the University of Adelaide, and holders of one or more of the following certificates or diplomas in the University of Adelaide—Final certificate in law, diploma in applied science, education, economics, forestry, music, or commerce." Dr. Davies explained that the purpose of this proposal was the elimination of the distinction between full members and associate members, and the admission of graduates of other Universities who might not have been admitted to the same degree in the Adelaide University. The motion was seconded by Mr. S. H. Skipper, and carried unanimously.

The annual report, presented by Dr. Davies, gave a review of the doings of the association during the year. He said the motion which had been passed in favor of the creation of a council, which would endeavor to obtain employment for graduates, had been sent to the University Council. That body had since appointed a committee to carry out a scheme for establishing an employment bureau. As regards the Union Building, a meeting to organize a campaign to collect funds would be called as soon as the Government had agreed to sign a transfer of the land on which the buildings were to be erected. Sympathetic reference was made to the death of Mr. F. B. Cowell.

The treasurer (Mr. F. W. Eardley) presented a balance sheet, which showed a balance in hand of £12, and assets totalling £420.

The adoption of the reports was proposed by Mr. C. T. Madigan, seconded by Dr. W. T. Cooke, and carried.

Officers elected:—Patron, Sir George Murray; president, Professor E. Harold Davies; vice-president, Mr. C. T. Madigan; treasurer, Mr. F. W. Eardley; committee, Dr. Helen Mayo, Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, Messrs. E. W. Holden, D. H. Hollidge, and S. H. Skipper; Mrs. McKail, and Miss F. M. Sharman; auditors, Professor Wilton and Mr. S. Russell Booth.

After the business of the evening, the members inspected the Geological Museum and the Darling Building, and subsequently adjourned to the north hall of the Conservatorium, where refreshments were served.

UNIVERSITY BROADCASTING.

The first of a series of programmes arranged by the University was broadcast last night from the Hume Company's Station at Parkside. The music was contributed by the senior students of the Conservatorium and the arrangements for that part of the programme were in the hands of Dr. E. Harold Davies (Director of the Conservatorium). In addition, Professor T. Brailsford Robertson delivered a short address on "What we eat, and why we eat it." Similar programmes will be broadcast every fortnight. The first numbers were clearly received by members of the Graduates' Association of the University of Adelaide, who were holding their annual meeting at the Conservatorium, where Mr. E. A. Randle, of the Adelaide Radio Company, was in charge of the apparatus. Dr. Davies was much pleased with the results obtained.

HOSPITAL SURGICAL STAFF.

Surprise was expressed recently by medical men that the chairman of the Hospital Board, in referring to the compulsory retirement of Dr. A. M. Cudmore from a position on the surgical staff of the Adelaide Hospital, should have stated that it was the policy of his board to retire each member of the senior surgical staff after twenty years' service. It was held that this course would be a great disadvantage to the treatment of patients and the instruction of students. The matter was brought under the notice of the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley), who called for a report from the chairman of the Hospital Board (Dr. B. H. Morris). The report, which is now available, states that the regulation necessitating the retirement of an honorary officer after he had reached the age of 60 years, and providing that no honorary officer should remain on the senior staff for a longer period than twenty years, was adopted by the board on the suggestion and advice received from the Advisory Committee, in common with other suggestions regarding minor amendments. The final draft passed by the board was approved by the Executive Council. The Advisory Committee was appointed to advise and assist the Council of the University of Adelaide and the board, with respect to any matter concerning the medical course and the dental course of the University, and the attendance and instruction at the Adelaide Hospital of students in these courses. The committee consisted of seven members nominated as follows:—One by the University Council, one by the Faculty of Medicine, one by the Faculty of Dentistry, two by the board, and two by the honorary staff. Cabinet, however, has since approved of the appointment of Dr. Cudmore as honorary consulting surgeon of the Adelaide Hospital.

DR. CUDMORE RETIRED

Report from Hospital Board

Surprise was expressed recently by medical men that Dr. B. H. Morris (chairman of the Adelaide Hospital Board) in referring to the compulsory retirement of Dr. A. M. Cudmore from a position on the surgical staff of the Adelaide Hospital, was reported to have stated that it was the policy of his board to retire each member of the senior surgical staff after 20 years' service. It was held that this course would be a great disadvantage to the treatment of patients and the instruction of students.

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The members of the Bach Society on Wednesday night presented the founder of the society, Professor E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc., with a birthday present, in the form of a leather attache case, a fountain pen, a gold pencil, and a case of pipes. The professor was born at Oswestry, England, and is a brother of Sir Walford Davies, Mus. Doc., a prominent figure in the English musical world. Dr. Harold Davies studied under Dr. Joseph Bridge,



Dr. Harold Davies

of Chester Cathedral, and came to South Australia in 1887. In 1896 he graduated Bachelor of Music in the University of Adelaide, and six years later took the degree of Doctor of Music, being the first student in Australia to gain this distinction. In 1919 he was appointed Professor of Music at the University and Director of the Elder Conservatorium. He founded the Adelaide Bach Society twenty years ago, and is still its director. He was organist of Kent Town Methodist Church for a great many years.

News 16/7/25

Professor E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc. was last night the recipient of a birthday present from members of the Bach Society, of which he was founder and still director. The presentation took the form of a leather attache case, a fountain pen, and a gold pencil. The professor will celebrate his fifty-eighth birthday on Saturday. He was born at Oswestry, England, and is a brother of Sir Walford Davies, Mus. Doc., distinguished in the musical world of England. Before he came to South Australia in 1887 Dr. Harold Davies studied under Dr. Joseph Bridge, of Chester Cathedral. In 1896 he graduated Bachelor of Music in the University of Adelaide, and six years later took the degree of Doctor of Music, being the first student in Australia to obtain this distinction. As a teacher of music in Adelaide he had a great reputation. In 1919 he was appointed Professor of Music at the University and Director of the Elder Conservatorium. The Adelaide Bach Society, which he founded more than 20 years ago, stands as a monument to his name. For a great many years the professor was organist of Kent Town Methodist Church.

Adv. 17/7/25

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The chamber music concert, to be given on Monday evening by the Conservatorium String Quartet in the Elder Hall, will be of exceptional interest. By his experienced leadership, Mr. Charles Schilsky has made a great mark on the work that has already been done, and for the first time since his arrival here there will be presented Beethoven's string quartet in C minor, opus 18. The programme will also include a fine modern work by the Belgian composer, Joseph Jongen, with Mr. George Pearce at the piano. Mr. Clive Carter, accompanied by Miss Maude Paddy, will sing a group of three songs by Hugo Wolf. Plan at S. Marshall and Son's, Gawler-place.