

THE TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE.

ITS JUBILEE TO-MORROW.

TRAINING GROUND OF PROMINENT MEN.

To-morrow marks an important epoch in the history of the State. It is the jubilee of the opening of the Teachers' Training College in Grote street. Many of the men who have helped to build up the present high standard of public school education in this State received their early training in this school.

Before even the province of South Australia had been proclaimed, some of the founders recognised the importance of education, and George Fife Angas and several others formed in England the South Australian School Society. The society appointed Mr. John Banks Shepherdson as the first schoolmaster, and he arrived in Adelaide a few months after the Province was proclaimed, when the people were living in tents or in huts of wood or mud and stones. The importance of the training of teachers was also recognised from the outset, as that was one of the duties expected of Mr. Shepherdson. The work, however, was not actually begun. In 1853 a new Act was passed which made provision for the establishment of a teachers' training college, but still no further progress was made. Another Education Act became law in 1875, and the building of a college was authorized. The Training School for Teachers was opened without any public ceremony on June 8, 1876. An examination of candidates for admission was held, and Mr. (afterwards Col.) L. G. Madley was appointed principal, and Mr. H. A. Curtis (who several years ago resigned from the position of Secretary to the Minister of Education) was made assistant master. The candidates were required to be at least 18 years of age, to be physically and morally suitable, and to pass a certain standard of education. After serving a short period of probation the student teachers had to enter into an agreement to serve the department for three years subsequently to leave the college. The course extended over six months, and consisted of the study of ordinary school subjects, and of the principles of teaching, together with actual practice in teaching, the latter in the practising school under the supervision of Mr. (now Dr.) W. G. Torr, and partly in the Grote Street Model School under the late Mr. Alexander Clark. After passing an examination, and having proved their skill in teaching over a period of six months, the students received appointments in the various schools.

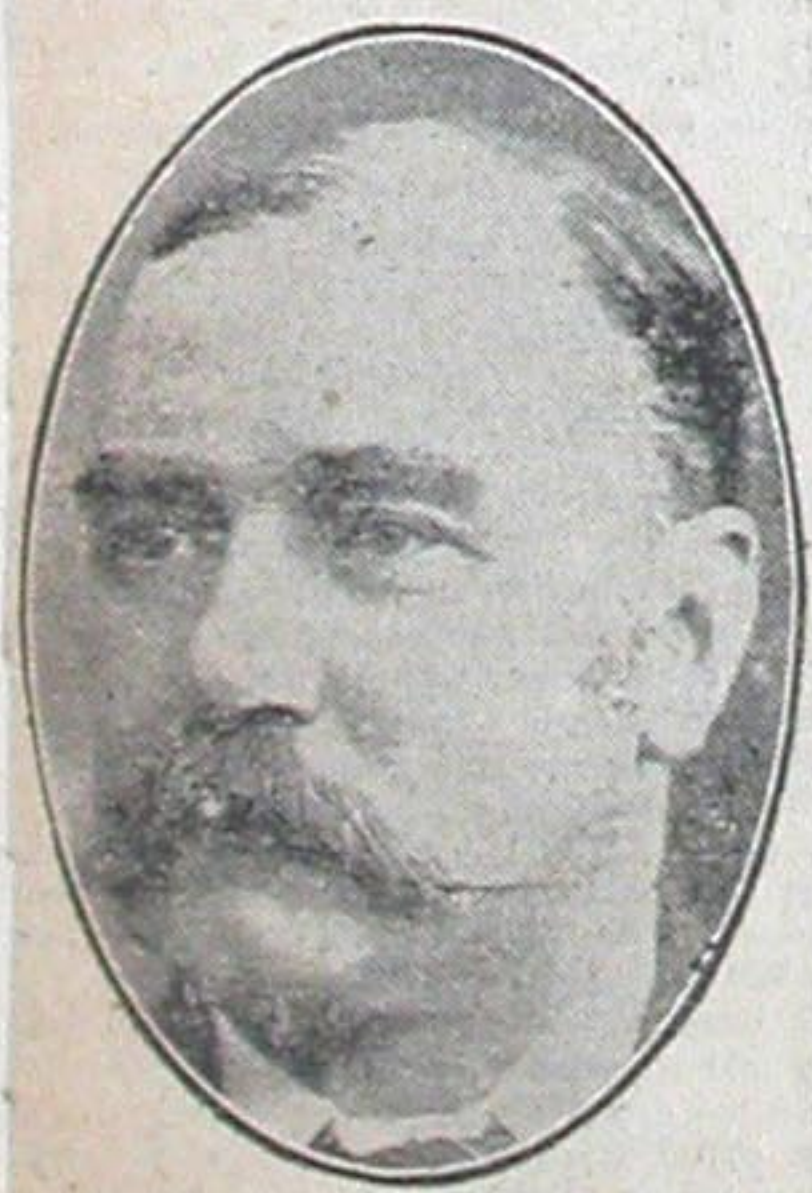
made in the practical training. In addition to the ordinary teaching practice in the college and the Grote Street School, the students were sent out to the various city and suburban schools under the supervision of head masters, who reported on their work. It was necessary from then on for those admitted to the school to have had previous experience in teaching, either as pupil teachers or as provisional teachers. It was in this year that many of the most prominent educationists in the department entered the college. Among them were the late Mr. Alfred Williams—who was appointed Director by the late Hon. Thomas Price, and revolutionized the State school education—and Messrs. C. Charlton (now Deputy-Director of Education), T. W. Cole (Chief Inspector), John Fairweather (inspector), Sydney Warren (inspector), H. J. Tuck (head master of the Central School, Unley), G. Bronner (head master of the Central School, Goodwood), Christopher Bray (head master of Sturt street), Oliver D. Jones (head master, Port Adelaide), and Thomas Moore (head teacher at Saddleworth). At this time Mr. W. J. McBride, who died about a fortnight ago, was master of the practice school for teachers.

More Subjects Added.

In 1885 Mr. Gamble, a former trainee, was placed in charge of the practice school, and in the following year drawing was reincluded in the curriculum. The latter work was entrusted to the late Mr. H. P. Gill (then master of the School of Design). In 1888 Mr. Andrew Scott resigned to take up an important position at Prince Alfred College. Referring to Mr. Scott, a high education authority remarked recently—"Andrew Scott is the man we all swear by, and his wonderful influence actually lives in the college." The Principal (Col. Madley) resigned in 1897, and became Commissioner of Police. Mr. Andrew Scott (who had re-entered the service of the department) was appointed master of the college, and, in addition, had charge of the instruction of the pupil teachers of the city and suburban schools. The number of students at that time was 18, of whom only five were men. A radical change was made in 1900, when the institution (which then had 37 students) was transferred to the University, and renamed the University Training College, with Mr. Scott in charge as Superintendent of Students, and the course was lengthened to two years. In the year 1907 Mr. Andrew Scott died, and Mr. W. J. McCarthy was placed in charge, and in March, 1909, a new superintendent was appointed. From the commencement of 1910 the scheme of training was considerably modified. The preliminary course at the Pupil Teachers' School was increased from two to three years.

The Staff Enlarged.

The "superintendent" was renamed the "principal," and there were appointed, in addition, a master of method for primary school work (Mr. J. C. Noack) and a mistress of method for infant school work (Miss E. M. Claxton). Inspector W. J. McBride co-operated in supervising all the practical work, and Miss L. Longmore assisted with the practice of the infant school trainees. The college was renamed the "Teachers' Training College" in 1913, and in that year Mr. S. F. Robinson was appointed master of method in place of Mr. Noack, who was promoted. In 1914 Mr. F. L. Gratton was

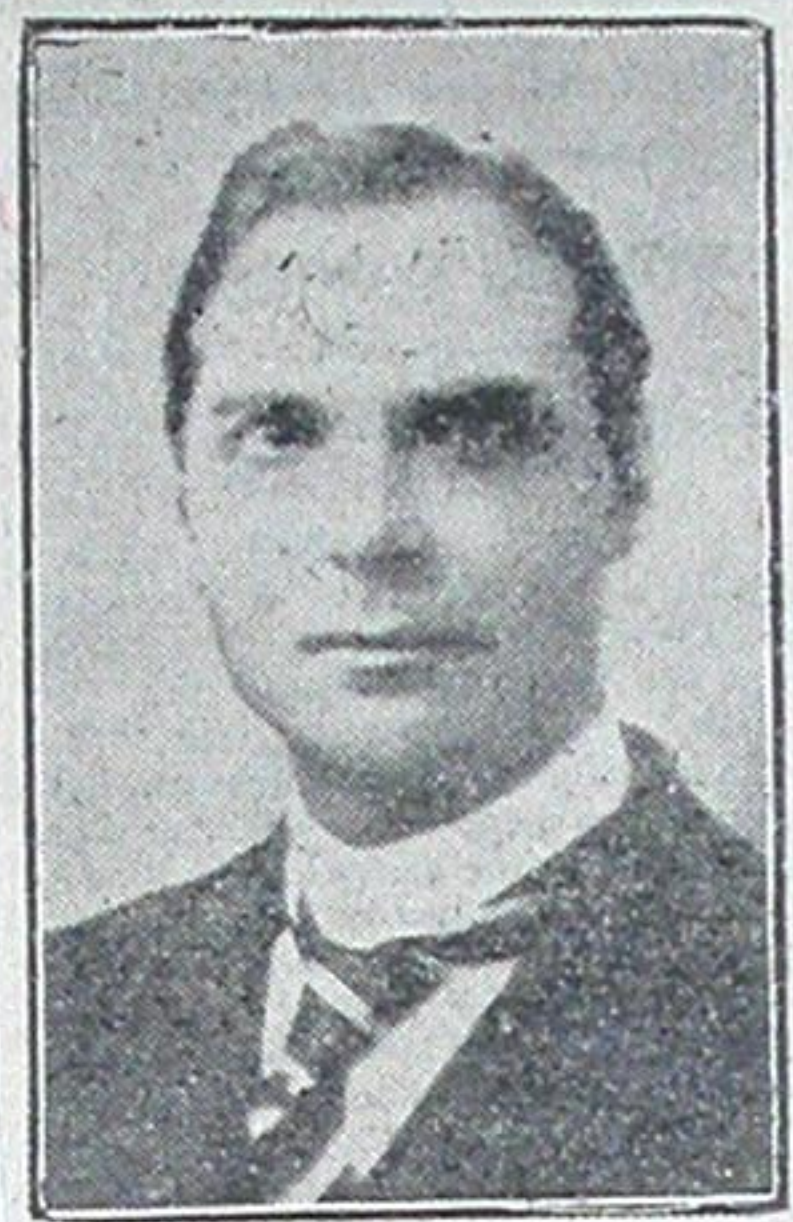


THE FIRST PRINCIPAL (LATE COL. L. G. MADLEY).

...ge, and arrangements were made with the University authorities which enabled the students to attend University classes in physics and chemistry, and the women teachers underwent a course in kindergarten teaching. In the following year the college was placed under the direct supervision of the Inspector-General of Schools (the late Mr. J. A. Hartley), the principal being absent through illness, and Mr. Andrew Scott, B.A., was appointed assistant master. In 1881 a change was

added to the staff, in 1915 Dr. Gertrude Halley took over all the work of lecturer in hygiene, and in 1918 Mr. J. H. Williams was appointed an additional lecturer in method. A pronounced forward movement began practically with the arrival of the new Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy) in 1919, and especially since 1921 the whole scheme of training has been remodelled. The present system aims at ensuring the training of teachers before they are appointed in charge of classes. Six special practice schools have been established, the college staff has been considerably augmented, and the various training centres brought under a single control. There are now seven courses actually in operation. They include training teachers for primary schools, infant schools, secondary schools, small country schools, and for commercial subjects, domestic arts, and woodwork. It has been necessary to transfer the college to temporary premises, and it is hoped to transfer the work to the new Teachers' Training College now being erected in Kintore avenue.

Last December a number of the 1881



DR. A. J. SCHULZ, the present principal.

"scholars" held an informal dinner at the Grosvenor, and about 11 of the 20 male students were present. Most of the men who attended hold prominent positions to-day. The old captain of the college (Mr. A. E. Lampe) presided, and a pleasant evening was spent in recounting old reminiscences.

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CONFERENCE ON CANCER.

A telegram which appeared in The Register on Tuesday stating that the Government of New South Wales had decided to foster the campaign to prevent the ravages of cancer was referred to the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley), who said he had every sympathy with the proposal. He fully realized the importance of the proposed step, and felt confident that good results would be achieved. He thought, however, such an important question should be considered by the various representatives of the States at a conference, so as to adopt a uniform policy. There was no doubt that the campaign against inroads being made by the dread disease would be much more efficient with a uniform system. He had little doubt that such a campaign would receive the financial support of the Commonwealth Government. This aspect of the question was of great importance, considering the financial stress under which the States were suffering at present.

THE MAN ON THE LAND.

KOONAMORE VEGETATION RESERVE.

INTERESTING PROGRESS MADE.

Valuable research work is being undertaken by the University of Adelaide at the Koonamore Vegetation Reserve, which has been set apart through the instrumentality of Hamilton & Wilcox, Limited, for the study of saltbush flora, particularly in regard to the return of native plants when the effect of rabbits and grazing has been removed. Great progress has been made during the last few months. The fencing of the reserve was completed last July, and adjacent to this enclosure there is a galvanized iron house, which provides for living quarters and a botanical laboratory. The furnishing of the house, which has been given by Mr. Sidney Wilcox, was carried out by the University Council, and in addition Miss Nellie Wilcox contributed £20 for the purchase of cooking utensils. During the recent vacation Professor T. G. B. Osborn (Professor of Botany at the University) proceeded to Koonamore, accompanied by Messrs. N. Jacobs, B.Sc. (Forestry), and T. B. Paltridge (a final year student in botany), in order to set the house in order, and make a start on the vegetation work. In the course of a chat on Tuesday Professor Osborn explained that the reserve comprises 1,500 acres, and it is obviously important to watch all the plants on it. Certain limited areas have been selected enclosing typical bits of vegetation, and these have been accurately mapped on different scales so that either all trees are shown on that area, or on a larger scale, all shrubs. Then there are limited areas in which every plant is indicated. The metric system has been adopted on account of the facility with which the measurements can be reduced. Ten quadrats, four of which, 100 metres square (more than two acres in extent), have been set out, and these are mapped on a scale of one in a 1,000, and on charts of these all trees and large shrubs are recorded.

Rejuvenation of Timber.

Professor Osborn said that he especially wants to observe the rejuvenation of the timber, because so far as he can see there is none of mulga and sandalwood while grazing is going on in the open country, and, of course, if an area becomes treeless serious consequences might result later. Four quadrats, each 100 square metres, are laid out in order to study the return of saltbush and bluebush. At present on some of these a little salt and blue bush are coming back in the old stumps, but the majority of the green covering is bindyi. In addition there are two quadrats, one of which is set down in the bindyi area, and another on sandy soil among the mulgas in which the position of every seedling is mapped. These plots have been mapped out, and photographed from two known points, and soil samples taken. It is intended to review plant growth at regular intervals; in the case of the square metre sections three or four times a year, and in the larger quadrats less frequently. Photographs will also be taken from time to time from the same angle. Research will be conducted in the laboratory, and on his visits the professor and his assistants will study as much as possible the characteristic plants of the neighbourhood, noting their soil requirements, depth of root, their season of flowering, seedling types, and so on. Already there is a list of every plant, which was in bloom during the professor's visit.

The party were on the reserve for eight days, and were strenuously engaged from daylight to dark. It appears as if valuable results will accrue from this important investigation.



THE ORIGINAL TRAINING COLLEGE, INGROTE STREET.