

PLANT DISEASES.

From R. D. GOODRIDGE, Port Broughton:—I read with interest the remarks of Lieut.-Col. J. W. Castino in connection with the treatment of infected wheat in one of the agricultural districts, and am pleased to note the work being done by the Waite Research Institute. Considerable attention during the past few years has been given to methods for the destruction of smut, and the reports to enlighten the farmer have been published explaining several methods for the treatment of wheat. Many reports by experts have been published in agricultural journals. At the last annual show a preparation of Dollman's, in the form of a wet and dry pickle, was being exhibited, and I can vouch for the efficacy of this substance, because I know it has been used with wonderful success for pickling wheat and destroying smut germs by a large number of wheatgrowers in this district. It has been proved to be more effective than either bluestone, formalin, or copper carbonate.

Mr. F. H. Humphris was awarded the Angus Engineering Scholarship at the last meeting of the Council of the University of Adelaide. Mr. Humphris, who has been in New South Wales for the past two years, graduated as a Bachelor of Engineering at the University of Adelaide in 1921. The scholarship which he has been awarded



Mr. F. H. Humphris

who has been awarded the Angus engineering scholarship by the Council of the University of Adelaide.

was founded by the late Hon. J. H. Angus in 1888, with a view to encouraging the training of scientific men, especially engineers. It is of the value of £200 a year for two years, with an additional allowance of £100 for travelling expenses. Mr. Humphris is a son of Mr. R. K. Humphris, stationmaster at Two Wells.

HONOURS IN MUSIC.

From "RISOLUTO":—In reply to "Sono," I should like to say that although the Associated Board have a great hold and are apparently more popular than the Australian Board examinations, the standard set by the University is a very high one, and students must be thoroughly prepared to obtain a pass. There is a far greater amount of work entailed in sending a candidate for the various grades than for those of the Associated Board. Compare University grade V. pianoforte with Elementary Association Board, which I consider about equal standard, excepting, of course, the extra work necessary for grade V. The candidate must prepare 13 scales for lowest note and for highest note on piano. Broken chords in 10 different keys, hands separately and together, out of these 10 keys three different fingerings must be taught, six being the same, two more different fingers and two more again different. Five-finger exercises, six in all, have to be prepared. Two of them must be transposed into nine different keys, and besides learning four works, namely, two studies and two pieces, the child must be able to state in what key each is written, the various modulations which occur in the same, and all the meanings of the terms and signs used in the above. In Elementary Division Associated Board, the child prepares 12 scales from the lowest note only, six broken chords, all same fingering, and separate hands only, three works, and that is all; no questions asked, except, of course, the aural tests which are also included in grade V. Which do you think the average teacher will choose of the two exams? I think you will find the really conscientious teacher, and he who has the time to spare, prefers the University examinations; but they mean a lot of extra time being given to students, and the majority cannot or won't give it. Even though the Australian Board has not such a large following as the Associated Board, I sincerely hope it will battle along and keep up its high standard because it is doing a vast amount of good. I am glad that "Obscure Organist" and "Sono" have both had a word to say about the diploma of the L.C.M. which so many children get at the ages of nine and 11. It would be interesting to know how many children from 11 to 14 have these diplomas in South Australia alone.

CONFERENCE OF WOMEN

Public Questions Discussed

MISS JUDE RETURNS

Miss Gertrude J. Jude, B.Sc. (honorary secretary to the South Australian National Council of Women), returned yesterday from Brisbane, where she attended as one of the delegates from this State the conference and Federal Council meeting. The conference lasted for nine days and Miss Jude spoke warmly of the hospitality of Brisbane folk. The Government placed four motor cars at the disposal of the delegates, and the mayor supplied a motor boat, so that all were enabled to visit the beauty spots on land and river. Among the important subjects discussed at the conference was "Uniformity of Marriage and Divorce Laws." Dr. Sybil Morrison, a woman barrister of New South Wales, and Mrs. B. S. Christophers (South Australia) were the principal speakers, and a resolution was sent to the Federal Government asking for a law to be framed.

THINGS IN GENERAL

University Service Controversy

CAUSE OF PUBLIC APATHY

(By "Mark Western")

The controversy which has arisen through the decision of the University authorities to hold a jubilee service in St. Peter's Cathedral will not arouse much enthusiasm in the mind of the average man.

He is not vitally interested in these antagonisms between the various churches. Least of all in a new country where no relationship exists between the State and any particular church.

Why is the man in the street not vitally interested? Some would reply, "Because he is ignorant of the historical contingencies out of which various sects arose. He cannot therefore sense the significance of these controversies."

Doubtless the average man is not interested in historical origins. He understands in a dim untheological and uncritical way that Christianity is concerned primarily with catching the spirit of its Founder and accepting His interpretation and valuation of life. And he asks, "Why all this pother?"

Sometimes he turns away disgusted with ecclesiastical controversy and says, "Get on with your job! What have these matters to do with Christianity?" There may be times when this attitude is a mistaken one. The issues raised go so deep that the whole spirit and outlook of the Christian faith are threatened.

Heightened by Christianity

Such crucial controversies are relatively isolated and rare. The major part of religious controversy has been over matters which were secondary and oftentimes even trivial. If it has demonstrated anything it has demonstrated the old truth that human nature is human nature.

Unfortunately for Christianity human nature is presumed to be heightened by Christianity. And where the real thing exists it is heightened. The major heresy of Christianity is seen where human nature claims to be heightened but it is not heightened.

The type, for instance, which claims the name Catholic but is absorbed in details of ritual and ceremonial in the crossing of his t's and the dotting of i's, or the type of Protestant who thunders "liberty" in the ears of his congregation and persuades himself that his particular system contains the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, are alike leagues removed from the essential outlook and attitude of Jesus. And if the man in the street cries a plague on both your houses, small blame to him.

Absurd Monopolies

He is looking for heightened human nature. He sees men absorbed in details or claiming absurd monopolies of "the faith." When people treat big things as though they were little and little things as though they were big their first need is a wholesome holiday.

When a man loses his sense of perspective he invariably proceeds to tear his hair, or, he becomes scrupulous and morbid. In the one case he suffers from attacks of dogmatic brain storm. In the other he wilts into weakness and stupidity. This is not human nature heightened; it is human nature depressed. Incidentally, it does not suggest Christianity.

This spectacle is intensified in an age whose supreme tendency is in the direction of unity and union. People, less and less, are interested in "isms." The murder of an obscure man in an obscure spot creates a world war. Across all the oceans battleships convoy the warriors.

The falling franc vibrates on every stock exchange in every continent. World news is presented in tabloid form in evening and morning newspapers. The international is not peculiar to labor. It is educational, political, commercial, economic, humanitarian. Our neighbors are everywhere whether we will or no.

Vital Principles

This major tendency of our time has meaning for the churches. If it is not informed with the Christian spirit it will run to exhaustion. But it will not be strengthened by churches that are mutually militant and distrustful of one another. A world groping its way to unity will not be impressed by churches which are more alert to their accidental points of difference than to their vital principles of agreement.

In view of the number of churches with their respective competing claims it would seem an impossible task for a State University to hold a religious service in any one church without other churches showing umbrage. The question of priority of claim is insoluble. To take refuge in neutral territory is a mere escape into a no man's land.

It is an illustration of the impasse to which the churches are reduced. Sectional issues apparently are more important than anything else. Most men would feel that the cathedral is the most fitting place in which to hold the service. But if every church, including the Unitarian, the Churches of Christ, Plymouth Brethren, Seventh Day Adventists, and others, as well as the larger free churches, were to take a representative part in the conduct of worship, obviously the service would be almost impossible to organize. If organized, it would be unfitting and absurd.

Spirit of Worship

The Council of Churches is to be represented apparently by Prof. Wilton (president). Surely, then, it is possible for the members of these churches to join in a service of thanksgiving in the Cathedral. Or is it that the Cathedral building in some mysterious way kills the spirit of worship?

This controversy reminds one of Robert Louis Stevenson's legend of the chalk-line. Two maiden sisters lived in a single room in Edinburgh. They fell out and never spoke to each other again. But they continued to live in the same room.

They bisected the room by drawing a chalk-line from the doorway to the fireplace. Thereby each could go out and in. Thereby, too, each could do her cooking. So each lived, ate, and slept in her respective territory.

Stevenson depicts these sisters in their sicknesses, silent, or praying aloud for each other's penitence; until they grow old and their hands tremble, and their toilettes become more prolonged, and their enmity hardens with the years.

"Until one fine day at a word, a look, a visit, with the approach of death, their hearts would melt and the chalk boundary be overstepped for ever."

SCIENCE CONGRESS

Prof. Rennie to Preside

YOUNG AT SEVENTY-FOUR

Prof. Edward H. Rennie, of Adelaide University, and president-elect of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, is an example of a man who keeps young in spite of time. He is 74 years of age.

Soon delegates from all parts of Australia and New Zealand will be flocking to Perth for the annual Science Congress on August 23. The principal address will be "The chemical exploitation, past, present, and future, of Australia" by Prof. Rennie who has given a lifetime of work to the advancement of science and his investigations into chemistry have brought him deserved renown.

His interest in the Science Congress has always been keen. In the past he has assisted it in its discussions and has been instrumental in bringing a vast knowledge before the public by its medium. Adelaide also owes him a debt for his untiring work at the University, where he has always been a prominent figure.

Stalwart of University.

Prof. Rennie might be called a stalwart of the University. He has been Professor of Chemistry there for 42 years. And he is still young. His vigor and energy are unimpaired.

He was born at Balmain, Sydney, in 1852, and was educated at Fort Street Model Public School. From there he went to Sydney Grammar School, and later to Sydney University, from which institution he graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1870, and Master of Arts in 1876.

Later Prof. Rennie was appointed a master in Sydney Grammar School, where he stayed for five years. In 1875, however, he relinquished that position.



Prof. E. H. Rennie

who at 74 years of age will preside over the forthcoming Science Congress.

tion in favor of a mastership at Brisbane Grammar School, which occupied his attention for a year and a half.

In 1877 he went to London to study chemistry. He graduated Doctor of Science from London University in 1881, and returned to Sydney in 1882 to assist in the Government Analyst's Department. He was there for two years, and then Adelaide secured him as Professor of Chemistry in 1884.

Prof. Rennie immediately made his mark here. In 1889 he was elected a member of the Council of the University. He resigned in 1898 to look into developments in chemical manufacture in London and America. He was away for 12 months, and was re-elected a member of the council in 1913. Since then he has always occupied a seat on that body.

Help by Science

In addition to being president-elect of the Science Congress Prof. Rennie is a fellow of the Chemical Societies of London and Berlin, is a fellow of the Institute of Chemistry of Great Britain and Ireland, and president of the Australasian Chemical Institute.

Discussing the forthcoming meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, Prof. Rennie said that such congresses led to a good deal of discussion, and therefore were of great assistance to the scientific men taking part. Science congresses also served the purpose of bringing prominently before the public matters of outstanding interest and of great practical importance.

It was anticipated, said Prof. Rennie, that the forthcoming meeting of the association would be a most successful