

**Women's Non-Party Conference**

A representative conference called by the Women's Non-Party Association was held at the association clubroom on Tuesday afternoon, July 20, in order to discuss proposals for the social control of mentally deficient. Recent investigation into this subject had disclosed to the association that there is no law in South Australia to deal with the feeble-minded, provision being made only for insane, idiots, and imbeciles. Mrs. Tennent Cooke presided. Among those present were Messrs. Birrell, Whitford, Crosby, Anthony, M.P.'s, Dr. Downey (British Medical Association), Dr. Kenneth Fry, Dr. Helen Mayo, Dr. Gertrude Halley, Miss Kate Cocks, Miss Jessie Champion (Minda Committee), Miss Patchell (Institute of Associated Teachers), Mrs. T. R. Bowman (National Council of Women), Miss H. Stirling (State Children's Department), Dr. Constance Davey (Education Department), Miss Winifred Berry, Mrs. Caryle McDonnell, Miss B. Stephens, Miss E. G. Walker. Dr. Davey placed before the conference a definite scheme for the control, care, and education of feeble-minded, imbecile, and idiot. The scheme include notification of all cases by the Director of Education, the heads of private schools, medical practitioners, State Children's and other Courts, superintendents of institutions, hospitals, prisons, and so forth, to a controlling board. The training of the feeble in special schools formed an important part of the scheme, while the educable were to be cared for in suitable institutions or in their homes, where proper guardianship was ensured. Stress was laid on the importance of the supervision of the feeble-minded, who, after training, would work in the community. After an interested discussion, the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

Proposed by Dr. K. H. Fry, seconded by Mr. Anthony:—"That this conference endorses the opinion of the Women's Non-Party Association that legislation dealing with 'idiots' and 'imbeciles' should be separated from that dealing with 'persons of unsound mind' and 'persons mentally infirm,' and that this new legislation dealing with idiots and imbeciles shall include the feeble-minded, for whom at present no provision is made."

2. Proposed by Dr. K. H. Fry, seconded by Dr. Helen Mayo:—"That this new legislation should establish a controlling body which shall be entrusted with the administration of all matters concerning the notification, inspection, care, and maintenance of all idiots, imbeciles, and feeble-minded persons, as well as the establishment and supervision of institutions (other than special schools under the authority of the Education Department) for the training and segregation and supervision of such persons."

Proposed by Miss Winifred Berry, seconded by Miss Champion, "That the Government be urged to establish special schools under the authority of the Education Department, for those children, who not being idiot or imbecile, and not being merely dull and backward, yet by reason of mental subnormality, are incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary elementary schools."

**ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING**

The account of a year of useful activities was submitted in the annual report of the Women's Non-Party Association at its annual meeting at Harvard Chambers, North terrace, Adelaide, on Wednesday evening.

The report stated that a spirit of good fellowship had prevailed throughout. The study circle on citizenship had proved valuable from an educational point of view. More lobbying and interviewing of members of Parliament had been done, and had served to secure amendments to legislation and to make members better acquainted with legislators and with Parliamentary procedure.

Much time had been spent in work for the welfare of aboriginal women and children, and a new standing committee had brought forward recommendations in connection with the building of the North-South railway, that native women and children be prohibited from coming within 50 miles of the construction camps. Senator Newlands had consented to ask in the House the reason for the delay in the building of the Alice Springs home for half-caste children. No appointment of a visitor to the half-caste girls from the Territory, employed in South Australia, had been made, and Senator Pearce had again been written to on the subject. The movement for the establishment of an aboriginal model State has received definite support of the association and petitions advocating it had been made available.

**Legal Adoption Bill.**

To the Legal Adoption Bill the association had given attention. One amendment had been felt essential, that the Court to make the final decision should consist of the presiding Magistrate, and two justices of the peace, one of whom should be a woman. That amendment was eventually passed by Parliament. Much interviewing of members of Parliament had been done on the Maintenance Bill and the result had been several

amendments in the Assembly. The Bill had been thrown out by the Legislative Council.

The subcommittee appointed to make suggestions for alterations to the marriage laws of the State had drawn up some definite recommendations which had been discussed, and in some instances amended by the association before being finally passed. Before the last Federal elections a questionnaire had been submitted to all the candidates. Candidates strongly objected to committing themselves in writing, and eight only answered the letter.

**Woman Councillor.**

Gratification had been felt last December when Mrs. A. K. Goode, who stood as an independent candidate was elected a member of the St. Peter's Council.—The centenary of Catherine Helen Spence, founder and first President of the W.N.P.A., was celebrated on October 31. The Government, approached with a request for an increase in the scholarship for the Helen Spence Scholar, had granted an increase.—The study on citizenship, led by Mrs. Winifred Kiek, B.A., B.D., had met on Monday afternoons throughout the winter, taking as a textbook, "Womanhood in the life of the nations," by Gwendoline Swinburne. Through the kindness of Mrs. K. Neill, a series of winter drawing room meetings had been arranged at Brighton. At the first meeting seven new members joined.

As one of the constituent societies of the Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship, the headquarters of which was in Perth, much correspondence and other business had been undertaken. The secretary of the federation (Miss King) through pressure of other work, resigned and Miss Ada Bromham was appointed. At request of the federation copies of the findings of W.N.P.A. sub committee on marriage laws in Australia, with the recommendations for alteration of the South Australian law were forwarded to the affiliated societies in the other States. Nationality of married woman was a matter on which the association and federation worked hard last year. Family endowment and pensions for necessitous widows were being dealt with at present in the hope of securing a Federal enactment embodying the both. The question of a woman substitute delegate to the League of Nations was always one of great interest to the federation which each year had forwarded names to the Federal Government for consideration. This year two names had been submitted—Mrs. J. C. McDonnell (interstate Vice-President of the federation and Vice-President of the W.N.P.A.) and Miss Freda Bage, of Queensland. The W.N.P.A. had endorsed both and written to the Prime Minister to that effect. The appointment had gone to Miss Bage, who was also the nominee of the Federal National Council of Women.

**British Commonwealth League.**

As an outcome of the British Overseas Committee the International Woman Suffrage Alliance that organization had been formed in London last July. Miss Chave Collisson, formerly of Sydney, had been appointed the organizing secretary. The motto adopted was "to secure equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women in the British Commonwealth of Nations." A report of that conference showed the need for such an organization to bind together the women of the Empire, who are definitely working for equal citizenship. It acted also as an educational centre where information concerning various parts of the Empire could be obtained. A report recently received showed how much had been accomplished in bringing women from different parts of the Empire together. The W.N.P.A. was one of the Australia women's organizations that had affiliated with the British Commonwealth League, and appointed as its delegates Misses Whitham, B.A., Menz, B.A., and Allen, B.A. In preparation for that conference a questionnaire on migration in South Australia had been answered, and forwarded to London. Through the British Commonwealth League the association had received memorandum drawn up by representatives from 27 women's organizations in Great Britain, setting out what they considered should be the duties and status of policewomen. That memorandum had been prepared at request of the Home Secretary to whom it had been presented. With two exceptions the regulations coincided with those governing policewomen in South Australia. Through the Australian Federation of Women's Societies for equal citizenship, the W.N.P.A. was affiliated with that international body which definitely worked for equal citizenship. Much of the correspondence received from that organization that year had to do with the congress held in Paris, May 30 to June 6, at which 40 nations were represented. The Australian delegation had been a large and representative one of every State except Queensland.

**National Council of Women.**

Mrs. W. T. Cooke and Mrs. J. Carlile McDonnell had presented the association on the National Council of Women, the later serving also on the executive committee. At the last annual meeting Miss Emerson had been re-elected W.N.P.A. representative on the W.E.A. Council, and additional delegates to its annual conference were Mrs. W. T. Cooke, Mrs. H. T. Robson, Mrs. J. T. McKay, and Miss Charlotte Birks.—The possessions of this association had been increased by the donation of six pictures painted by the late Miss Ethel Barringer, a former member, given at her death by her executors, to be kept as a memorial of her. Another acceptable gift was a gas fire presented by Mrs. Herbert Heaton on her departure to Canada. Smaller gifts had been donated by members, and the association was indebted to Miss Barnea for posters describing the work and aims of the association.

Reports showing good progress were submitted by the several committees, and the Blackwood and Henley branches of the association.

Officers elected:—President, Mrs. Tennent Cooke; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Darnley Naylor, Dr. Marie Brown, Mrs. J. C. McDonnell, and Dr. Constance Davey; Secretaries, Misses Blanche Stephens and Ellinor Walker; Club Secretary, Mrs. P. B. Carvosso; Treasurer, Mrs. Halligan; Committee, Mesdames Harvey Johnston, J. C. McKail, H. T. Nicholls, H. Robson, J. McKay, W. H. Lewis, E. Hill, and Misses M. Emerson, C. Birks, Molly Hall; Conveners of Subcommittees—Parliamentary committee, Mrs. H. T. Nicholls; municipal, Miss C. A. Wilson; Aborigines' welfare, Mrs. J. C. McKay; press and paper committee, Miss E. G. Walker; library, Miss C. Birks; club committee, Mrs. P. B. Carvosso; finance committee, Mrs. Halligan.

honorary director of the Workers' Educational Association, an organisation which has provided education of a university standard and which gives instruction to 1,000 persons annually.

**Latin and Greek**

"When I began as a professor of classics at Adelaide University there were 20 students in Greek. Nowadays there are five. Latin, however, has kept its place satisfactorily. There is little doubt that in the future separate courses in Latin and Greek will be arranged. Hitherto the two subjects have been taken together. Something has been done in the past five years to encourage the study of Greek by the institution of an elementary class. This departure was necessitated by the requirements of the subjects of elementary ethnology and comparative philology, subjects which have not proved unpopular.

"Personally I much regret this decline in the teaching of Greek, although I sympathise with the difficulties of the school curriculum. There is, however, in England an indication of a return with due modifications to the old methods of education."

**LEAVING CLASSICS**

**Professor Naylor to Resign**

**TWENTY YEARS IN ADELAIDE**

General regret will be felt at the announcement that Prof. H. Darnley Naylor will resign his position as Professor of Classics at Adelaide University at the end of the year.

He has been granted leave of absence for a year, and his return to South Australia is uncertain. He has been one of the most conspicuous figures in the cultural, social, and philanthropic life of the community since he arrived in Adelaide 20 years ago. A popular and attractive lecturer to students and speaker at public gatherings, he has always had the happy faculty of combining wit with wisdom, and at the happy moment to point a moral and adorn a tale.

Prof. Naylor is a deep student of international politics and an enthusiastic believer in the League of Nations as a potential factor in the maintenance of peace among the nations in the future. With Mrs. Naylor he will attend unofficially the assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva next year.

**Teaching for Thirty-two Years**

"I have been teaching for 32 years," said Prof. Darnley Naylor today, "and I feel it advisable to give place to a younger man. I will leave Australia with regret, but I hope that there will be compensating advantages in that while I am

Dr. J. R. S. G. Beard has been appointed honorary assistant gynaecologist at the Adelaide Hospital.

Dr. W. Jethro Brown, who is in Rua Rua Private Hospital, North Adelaide, has been granted leave of absence for three months on account of sickness.

**POSITION OF MR. N. A. WEBB.**

Mr. Deputy-President Webb was asked on Thursday evening if he would confirm a statement published in an afternoon paper attributing to him expressions of strong indignation against the Federal Government for having terminated his appoint-



MR. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT WEBB

ment as Deputy-President of the Federal Arbitration Court, and the remarks—"I have been sacked without reason, and thrown on the scrapheap. It means that at 60 years of age I have to start work again." Mr. Webb replied, "Certainly not," and added, "I gave no authority for such statements to be made, and the man who saw me gave me his word that he would make no statement as coming from me." We may explain that a representative of The Register saw Mr. Webb on his return from Melbourne last week, and he intimated then that he was not going to make any statement regarding his position.



Professor Darnley Naylor

who will resign his position as Professor of Classics at the Adelaide University at the end of the year.

not in my cottage in Cumberland I shall be elsewhere able to devote the remaining years of my life to work which I consider of greater importance even than Latin and Greek.

"Naturally I have taken this course with many regrets. It is a wrench to part with the most pleasant body of colleagues I have ever known in any university, and I have been in several.

"I owe also a debt of gratitude to the council of the Adelaide University, which has been always sympathetic and ready to help the school over which I preside. I am sorry also to abandon my position as

Mrs. S. A. Cornish, of Lincoln ave Reade Park, has received a cablegram notifying that her son, Dr. J. R. Cornish, has passed his examination for the degree of F.R.C.S., at Edinburgh University. Dr. Cornish left South Australia last year with the intention of sitting for this examination, and his early success is gratifying.