

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

On Monday evening, at the monthly meeting of the Anthropological Society of South Australia, the topic for the evening was "The Aboriginal Occupation of the Adelaide Plains." Dr. T. D. Campbell opened the debate by referring to the occurrence of chipped-back flint knives in the sandhills near Glenelg and elsewhere, and stated that these are said to be still used by the natives in the remote parts of South Australia, as knives for ceremonial scarification. During further discussion Drs. Morgan and Campbell, and Messrs. Mountford, Sheard, Stapleton, Hossfeld, and Tindale took part, and the following details were gathered about the natives:—The name of the extinct Adelaide tribe was not definitely known. It was believed that Kaurna was the proper term, but several other names which might have a local group significance had been recorded. Pedler's Creek, Christie's Creek, Grange, and Glenelg were important camping grounds in the olden days. There were red ochre deposits near Pedler's Creek, which were extensively used, and tribes from the lower northern districts were in the habit of visiting the place for supplies. At Sellick's Hill there are several former camp sites, where to-day flint chips and pounding stones might be picked up. At Brown Hill Creek there had been a small camping ground where, after the settlement of Adelaide, natives met for corroborees. The natives apparently had not lived permanently in the upper Mount Lofty Ranges; the floor of a small cave at Glen Osmond dug out a few years ago had contained some charcoal hearths, and the remains of emu eggshells, showing that it had been used on occasions. During warm weather the natives, as in the interior, had worn little or no clothing, but as a protection against cold had worn sewn kangaroo-skin cloaks fastened at the neck with a stick. In the preparation of these cloaks a special kidney-shaped flat stone implement had been used for scraping the skin. This implement had so far only been recorded within the bounds of the Adelaide tribe. It was certain, from the total absence of stone axes in any of the camp sites within 50 miles of Adelaide, that no such implement was known among the Kaurna. This was confirmed by information from several independent sources that the native method of climbing trees was to drive wooden pegs into the bark with a hammer stone, thus forming footrests, not to cut footrests, as, for instance, the natives of Mount Gambier used to. There was some evidence that a stone fish trap had been used in former times at Pedler's Creek, but the river had since then changed its course somewhat; the roughly aligned stones could still be seen. Little was known of the use of canoes, except on the Murray River, in South Australia; it was interesting to note, therefore, that Mr. Mountford's grandfather, one of the earliest colonists, recollected having seen a canoe on the Port River. There were several "canoe" trees on the banks of the Finniss, and there was said to have been one near the creek at Hyde Park. In former times, before the draining of parts of Unley with the Culver street drain, there had been a large swamp there, which was flooded every winter. It was possible that a canoe had been used there. Several pounding stones or anvils had been picked up on what had been the margin of the swamp. There were many burying grounds along the banks of the Torrens. In the sandhills at the Grange many burials had been recorded; at Bowden, in the brick clay pits, natives buried in a crouching position had been discovered 6 ft. below the present surface of the ground. Very few burials had been met with in the hills. Mr. Stapleton had knowledge of corpses being carried down from Gumeracha to be buried near the Torrens at Adelaide. In these burials, apparently, no covering of stones was used. The Flinders Range natives had commonly piled branches over the burial mound, which was marked off with a semicircle of large stones, while along the Murray a rough hut had been placed over the grave and mourning caps of pipeclay placed near the body. The Chairman emphasized the great gaps in our knowledge of the Adelaide tribe, which became extinct very soon after the advent of the white man, and expressed the hope that any one having authentic information or relics of the local tribes would place them on record at once. Much of the knowledge gained in the past had passed away. Dr. Campbell and Messrs. Sheard, Hossfeld, and Stapleton exhibited various stone implements from the vicinity of Adelaide, in illustration of their remarks.

ADV 26. 8.26

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION OF THE ADELAIDE PLAINS.

On Monday evening, at the monthly meeting of the Anthropological Society, there was a good attendance. The topic for the evening was "Aboriginal occupation of the Adelaide plains." Dr. T. D. Campbell referred to the occurrence of chipped-back flint knives in the sandhills near Adelaide. He traced by means of a map the known distribution in South Australia, and stated that they were used, according to the natives of the remote parts of South Australia north of the East-West line, as knives for ceremonial scarification. Dr. Morgan and Messrs. Mountford Sheard, Stapleton, Hossfeld, and Tindale took part in the discussion, and the following details were gathered as to the natives and their habits:—The name of the extinct Adelaide tribe is not yet definitely known; it is generally believed that Kaurna is the proper term, although several other names which may have a local group significance have been placed on record. Pedler's Creek, Christie's Creek (near Port Noarlunga), Grange, and Glenelg were important camping grounds. There are red ochre mines near the first-named locality, and tribes from the lower northern districts were in the habit of visiting the place for supplies. At Sellick's Hill there are several camp sites, where flint chips, knives, and pounding stones may be picked up. At Brown Hill Creek there was a small camping ground where, after the settlement of Adelaide, natives met or corroborees. The natives apparently did not live permanently in the upper Mount Lofty Ranges, the floor of a small cave in the back of Glen Osmond dug out

a few years ago, revealed some charcoal hearths and the remains of emu eggshells, showing that it was used on occasions. During warm weather the natives, as in the interior, wore little or no clothing, but as a protection against the cold wore sewn kangaroo skin cloaks, fastened at the neck with a stick. In the preparation of these cloaks a special kidney-shaped flat stone implement was used for soaping the skin. This implement has so far only been recorded within the bounds of the Adelaide tribe.

It is certain, from the entire absence of stone axes on any of the camp sites within about 50 miles of Adelaide, that no such implement was known among the Kaurna; this is confirmed by the information gathered from several independent sources that the native method of climbing trees was to drive wooden pegs into the tree with a hammer stone, not, as for instance the natives of Mount Gambier did, to cut foot rests by means of a polished-edged diorite axe. There is some evidence that a stone fish-trap was formerly in use in the shallow water at Pedler's Creek, but the river has changed its course somewhat since then; the roughly aligned stones may still be seen. Little is known of the use of canoes in South Australia, except on the Murray River. It is of interest to note, therefore, that Mr. Mountford's grandfather, one of the earliest colonists, recollected having seen a canoe on the Port River. There are several "canoe" trees on the banks of the Finniss, and these are the nearest definite records of such to Adelaide, but there was said to have been one near the creek at Hyde Park. In former times it is true that much of what is now Unley was a swamp, flooded every winter, so that it is possible canoes were used there. Several pounding stones have recently been picked up on what was the margin of the swamp.

There are many burying grounds along the Torrens River, and in the sandhills at the Grange. At the Bowden claypits natives buried in a crouching condition have been discovered six feet below the present surface of the ground. Very few burials have been met with in the hills. Mr. Stapleton has knowledge of corpses being carried down from Gumeracha for burial near the Torrens at Adelaide. In all these burials no stone coverings were apparently used; in this they differed from the Flinders Range tribes, who covered their graves with stones and wood, and marked them off with semi-circles of large stones; and from the Murray tribes, who built a rough hut over the grave and placed on it mourning caps of pipeclay.

The chairman spoke of the great gaps in their knowledge of the Adelaide tribe, which became extinct very soon after the advent of the white man, and expressed the hope that anyone having authentic information or relics of local tribes, would place them on record at once. Much of the knowledge gained in the past had passed away without being made known.

Dr. Campbell and Messrs. Hossfeld, Stapleton, and Sheard exhibited stone implements from the vicinity of Adelaide in illustration of their remarks.

ADV. 26. 8.26.

THE DURATION OF LIFE.

EXPERIMENTS FOR PROLONGATION.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR BRAILSFORD ROBERTSON.

Parth, August 25. A public lecture on "The Duration of Life," was delivered to-day by Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, of Adelaide, who was introduced by the Governor (Sir William Campion) as a recognised authority on organic chemistry. Professor Robertson, who is taking part in the Science Congress, said there was a fundamental cause of death, and it lay not outside ourselves, but within ourselves. It was shown many years ago by Weismann that forms of animal life existed which were potentially immortal. These were unicellular animals, such as amoeba, or the ciliated unicellular organisms known as infusoria. Recently it had been shown that just as in the case of the unicellular colonies, so in the more varied association of cells which constituted the body of a high animal, it was the fact of their association with one another in limited volume which condemned the entire society to mortality. If individual cells were removed from the society of which they formed a part that was from the body of the animal in which they were produced, they were, like unicellular animals, potentially immortal. Professor Leo Loeb, of the Washington University, St. Louis, had found it possible to cultivate cartilage cells by transplanting them repeatedly into young animals, and in this way had succeeded in maintaining a series of transplants of cells, all originating from those forming the first graft. This tissue had now attained the age of six

years, more than double the extreme duration and three times the average duration of life of a rat from which the tissue was derived. It was the compulsory association of different kinds of cells composing the animal body which compelled them to cease reproducing themselves, and ultimately rendered the maintenance of life impossible for them all.

Details were given by Professor Robertson of experiments conducted upon the action of extracts prepared from the pituitary gland upon the growth of mice, which resulted in prolongation of life. The origin of this effect was at present quite obscure. It would be difficult, however, to over-estimate the importance of the fact that there had been found means of artificially prolonging the life of animals through the administration of substance to them in their diet, because it showed that the phenomenon of life duration was controllable. One other and apparently more intelligible means of securing this end had been discovered. By giving animals in their diet a superabundance of mitric acid manufactured from animal tissues the effect upon life duration was even more marked than the effect of the pituitary extract.

Having once established some measure of control, however slight, over this phenomenon of life duration, so fundamental to the nature of life itself, they could be sure that they would achieve in the future greater control, and results of increasing quantitative importance. Where it would lead them they could not tell, but in experiments of this character science was seeking information which was fundamental to the whole of medical science, and to the life of societies, nations, and individuals.

NEWS 26.8.26



Mr. H. M. Lushey

Mr. Harold Merton Lushey, B.A., who will preside tonight at the anniversary celebrations of the South Australian Public Teachers' Union, is lecturer at the Teachers' College, North terrace.

Born at Alberton in 1884, Mr. Lushey received his early education at the Hindmarsh public school, and later in Western Australia. After eight years he returned to South Australia, and attended evening lectures at the Adelaide University, graduating in 1923.

Mr. Lushey gained experience in this State at Unley, Port Pirie, Flinders street, and the Currie street practising school, where he was the first chief demonstration assistant. He was the first assistant teacher to gain a first-class teaching certificate under the new classification scheme.

In 1924 Mr. Lushey was appointed lecturer at the Teachers' College in succession to Mr. James H. Williams, M.A. In his younger days Mr. Lushey was a keen follower of football and cricket. As a member of the central executive of the Teachers' Union for seven years, he occupied the position of assistant treasurer and treasurer.

REG. 28.8.26

The appointment of Dr. William Christie as medical inspector of schools in South Australia, has been gazetted.

ADV. 30.8.26

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT.

A concert of original compositions by members of the Elder Conservatorium Association will be given in the Elder Hall this evening. The public are invited. Admission is free.

THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

DRAFTING A CONSTITUTION.

SIR GEORGE SYME ON ITS OBJECTS.

Sydney, August 26.

Concurrently with the meeting of the Australasian Medical Congress at Dunedin next year, an Australasian College of Surgeons will be inaugurated. A convention of delegates sitting in Sydney has adopted a proposal to establish such a college, and 40 foundation members have been chosen, all of them prominent in their profession in Australia and New Zealand.

The delegates met to-night to consider the drafting of a constitution. They are Professor Sands (Sydney University), and Dr. R. B. Wade (New South Wales), Sir George Syme and Dr. Kenny (Victoria), Dr. S. Newland and Dr. Bronte Smeaton (South Australia), Dr. W. N. Robertson and Dr. Gibson (Queensland), Dr. Lines (Tasmania), Dr. Stacy (Western Australia), Dr. Herbert (New Zealand).

Interviewed to-night, Sir George Syme (who is likely to be the first president) said the conference was the outcome of meetings held in several States by senior surgeons, men on the consulting staffs of hospitals, and others, who, like himself, had retired from practice, and could not be considered to have any personal axe to grind. All were impressed with the need of a college of surgeons on the lines of those in Britain and America. There were three Colleges of Surgeons in Great Britain, and one in the United States. The Royal Colleges of England, Edinburgh, and Ireland were all under charter. They were examining bodies, and conferred diplomas in surgery. That was their primary function. The American College of Surgeons was organised in 1913. It was not an examining body, although it conferred a diploma of fellowship. To acquire that fellowship a candidate had to show a practical knowledge of surgery, and to submit records of operations he had personally conducted, and to be of good moral character, and be possessed of high ethical standards. The main object of the American college was to improve the standard of surgery in the United States, and to improve hospital administration. It was felt in Australia that the public interest, no less than that of the profession, made it desirable to have a body on similar lines. An Australian College of Surgeons would afford an assurance to the public that all the members of the profession admitted to fellowship possessed the necessary qualifications of surgical knowledge and practice, and conformed to the highest moral and ethical standards.

The college will ultimately have its home in Canberra. Sir George Syme said very likely the King would confer a Royal charter upon it. Late to-night the draft constitution was adopted.

ADV. 28.8.26

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has advised the Council of the University that Mr. F. G. Holloway, M.Sc., assistant lecturer in the department of zoology, has been appointed to one of its travelling studentships in economic entomology. The appointment is conditional on suitable arrangements being made by the authorities for a suitable field of research. The studentship is one of five granted for post graduate work abroad. The subjects are economic entomology, forest entomology, forest mycology, preservation of fruit (including transport) and problems connected with forest products. The holder of the studentship will be required to enter into an agreement to give the council an option to secure his services on his return to Australia for a period of three years at a rate of not less than £400 per annum, increasing by £50 per annum to £500; £150 will be granted for travelling expenses.

THE COMMEMORATION ADDRESS.

Professor Brailsford Robertson has accepted the invitation of the Council of the University to deliver the commemoration address in December next. He has chosen for his subject, "The External Inheritance of Man."

THE CLASSICS DEPARTMENT.

At the suggestion of Professor Darnley Naylor the Council of the University has invited Professor T. G. Tucker, C.M.G., Litt. D. (Camb.), Hon. Litt. D. (Dublin), Emeritus Professor of Classical Philology of the University of Melbourne, to take charge of the department of classics during the absence of Professor Naylor in 1927. Professor Tucker has accepted the invitation.