ADV. 20-6-29

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

CONVERSAZIONE AT THE UNIVERSITY

At a meeting of medical practitioners at the South Australian Club Hotel on June 19, 1879, and presided over by Dr. William Gosse, it was resolved, on the motion of Dr. T. W. Corbin, seconded by Dr. Baker—"That a society be formed, to be called the South Australian Branch of the British Medical Association." That society, of which Dr. Corbin was one of the first presidents, celebrated its jubilee on Wednesday night at the University, under the presidency of his son, Dr. John Corbin. Among those present were his Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven), Lady Stonehaven, Lady Hore-Ruthven, the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray), and Miss Murray, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. Lavington Bonython), and the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell).

Medical Secrets

The members of the association had arranged a series of demonstrations and scientific exhibits to give their guests an opportunity of understanding the methods and appreciating the results of medical science, and of realising how those methods and results are harnessed in the service of medical practice. This is the first occasion in history when a body of doctors has, as it were, taken the laity into its confidence as regards the secrets of the medical profession. The departments of the University concerned in medical education and research were thrown open for inspection, and the University staff, the practitioners, and the students did their best to make plain how every branch of knowledge is conscripted to combat disease.

At first sight it might not seem obvious that a physics department devoted to Newtonian mechanics, Einsteinian relativity, and the quantum theory of discontinuous energy would be vitally essential, say, to a baby's teething. Yet the study of light waves, shorter than those visible, has led to the development of ultra-violet light therapy, and it is now known that these short waves can generate in the body and outside of it a chemical substance essential to the proper calcification of teeth. The study of the phenomena accompanying the passage of an electric current through a vacuum tube might seem an academic procedure, yet on this is founded the X-ray machine by which the doctor can peer into the hidden recesses of the body. Radium has enabled the physicist to understand the structure of the atom through its disintegration, and when M. Becquerel carried some of this substance in his pocket and discovered that he had burned himself, a new weapon was given the medical practitioner. There are good grounds for believing that it is going to disintegrate malignant disease also. These relations of physics to medicine were luminously portrayed by Professor Kerr Grant in his department.

Why a Cat Lands on Its Feet

Professor Woollard, who is in charge of the departments of medicine, anatomy, and histology, the oldest methods of medical study but still among the most important, had arranged a series of demonstrations to illustrate the various ingenious ways of peering more closely into the body's organisation. The making of slices of the tissues of the body with a thickness of a thousandth of an inch was shown. Under the microscope the incessant flux of the blood and its cells through the tissues was made visible. An attempt was made to show why a falling cat always lands on its feet. Little particles of sand tug on the hairs of cells whenever the head is displaced from its normal position, and the nerve currents so generated act reflexly on the muscles until the normal posture is regained.

Physiology has taken its place in the medical sciences by starting from the study of man in action. It has shown that he is held in thrall by the law of the conservation of energy. Every particle that enters his body can be accounted for in terms of heat, work, or excreted waste product. The time taken for an impression received at the surface of the body to pass through the central nervous system and issue in muscle contraction has been measured in thousandths of a second. The velocity of his nervous impulses, the horsepower a man can develop, and how he gets his steam out of burning sugar in oxygen—these and many other things were vividly shown by Professor Hicks. This human machine can be stimulated or slowed down by a great variety of chemical substances. Professor Hicks illustrated how the action of such drugs are tested, how they are purified, and standardised, and so can be used by the practitioner to obtain predictable, precise, and certain reactions in disease.

The Study of Parasites

Biochemistry, the youngest child of medical science, which was responsible for the discovery of vitamines, was demonstrated by Professor Brailsford Robertson in a series of exhibits and experiments, which showed how medical chemistry tackles its problems and penetrates into the molecules, the material of human beings.

Dean Swift, in a famous stanza, recorded that the series of parasites is infinite. Professor Harvey Johnson had arranged for inspection those inhabitants of the animal kingdom which, as most soldiers discovered during the war, are fond of man, but occasion no reciprocal affection. They ranged from the very large to the very small, the venomous snakes attracting special attention. From the latter it is possible to obtain the venom in a pure form, to work with sub-lethal doses, and discover how the body protects itself when such a dose is given. Out of this has come important knowledge on immunity to and protection from poisons—knowledge now used in the treatment of infectious diseases. Much work has been done and is still being done in Australia on snake venoms in relation to the fundamental problems of immunity.

Several interesting aspects of the causation and progress of disease were demonstrated by Professor Cleland and Dr. Bull. They pointed out that bacteria, which could only be seen when magnified a thousand times, were destroyed by still smaller organisms. Those infinitesimally small organisms—called bacteriophages—were too minute even for the best microscopes, but it was known that they existed, that they propagated themselves, and that each lived on only one kind of bacterium, which it destroyed. It was possible that further research, which was being carried out, would reveal how the physician could obtain the right bacteriophage for a disease and so cure infection by infesting its bacterium with a still smaller one.

A Wonderful Film

Perhaps the most striking demonstration of the evening was the film produced by R. G. Canti, of the Cambridge research laboratory, which showed most vividly how normal living cells and cells of malignant tumors behave, and how both are affected by radium emanation. Whatever may be thought of British films in the entertainment world the superb technical triumph won in the making of this film, where each item is magnified 1,200 times, and where the least vibration of the instruments would have meant disaster, establishes a scientific achievement that is absolutely unique. The film made it strikingly clear that human bodies are composed of elemental units in ceaseless activity, ever wandering, always growing, multiplying and degenerating. The living devour the dead, and the equilibrium that ensues is called life. The interior of each unit is in ceaseless agitation, its form ever-changing, its particles streaming endlessly, darting here and there, frothing and bubbling—indeed a dance of life. The sudden exposure to radium emanation affects the more active growing elements and kills the malignant. The jubilee of the association undoubtedly coincides with a happy circumstance—the beginning of what is apparently a new epoch in the successful treatment of cancer.

THE RECEPTION

The president (Dr. John Corbin) and Mrs. Corbin received the guests in the University Union Refectory, Dr. Thorold Grant announcing. The hall was effectively decorated with a profusion of autumnal leaves. The high overmantel was banked with pink sweet peas and carnations, and a huge fire was blazing, in front of which a red carpet and comfortable chairs gave a hospitable touch on the right side of the hall. An orchestra provided bright music.

Mrs. Corbin was charmingly gowned in shell pink georgette, the skirt banded with silver beading, and silver fringe narrow stole ends fell from the shoulders at the back. She wore a trail of rosebuds in mixed shades on the left shoulder. After the reception which lasted from 8 to 8.30, the National Anthem announced the arrival of his Excellency the Governor. Immediately afterwards the guests embarked upon a tour of the diqerent departments. Supper was served later in a large marquee, the tables being decorated with mixed flowers.

The Frocking

Lady Hore-Ruthven was wearing a black chiffon velvet coat with ermine collar and cuffs over a black velvet toilette. Lady Stonehaven was gowned in fine black lace, and a tissue brocaded coat with wide collar and cuffs of sable. The Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Lavington Bonython) wore a geranium red chenille lace frock and a modish coat of pomegranate patterned tissue in gold, red, and green, with high standing collar of black fox, and wide kimona sleeves cuffed with the fur, and there was a broad band of fur round the hem of the coat. Miss Murray wore a black lace toilette and a black and silver cloak with a sable collar. Lady Gordon was gowned in black lace, and wore a black velvet coat. Lady Newland's figured ring velvet toilette was worn beneath a Malmaison pink velvet cloak. Lady Mawson was gowned in black ring velvet. Mrs. Humphrey Makin chose a wine-colored georgette costume. Mrs. T. G. Wilson was in a pink georgette frock, beaded in silver. Mrs. J. A. Bonnin wore black georgette embroidered in silver with rhinestone ornaments. Mrs. Harry Gilbert's powder blue georgette was beaded in silver. Mrs. T. S. O'Halloran wore shrimp pink georgette, beaded in gold and steel, and a musquash fur coat. Mrs. Roy Burston's white frock was beaded in silver. Mrs. Erickson chose a black georgette skirt and white georgette bodice, beaded in crystal. Mrs. Britten Jones was wearing fine black lace, embroidered in gold upon the skirt. Mrs. W. Sangster wore beige silk lace and georgette toilette. Mrs. John Gunson was gowned in black georgette with a skirt in handkerchief points. Mrs. Clive Sangster was in pale pink georgette with bands of crystal beading. Mrs. B. H. Morris wore a smart black lace and gold tissue toilette. Mrs. J. O'Brien chose a black lace frock with uneven hem.

Mrs. de Crespigny wore a black ring velvet toilette. Mrs. A. F. Stokes chose a pale pink georgette costume and her evening cloak matched it in tone. Mrs. Bronte Smeaton looked well in a pale pink georgette, beaded in crystal. Mrs. A. M. Cudmore chose a black georgette toilette, sequined round the hips and on the bodice in petunia tones. Dr. Helen Mayo's black georgette frock was embroidered in silver. Mrs. Frank Beare was in a pretty pale pink georgette, beaded in silver. Mrs. Kenneth Bollen chose a black georgette, the skirt hanging in handkerchief points. Mrs. Percy Bollen was in a black jetted toilette. Miss Lorna Bollen was wearing a pale blue silk lace frock. Mrs. H. Wunderly chose a frock of gold lace, worn with a gold tissue coat, with collar of sable fur. Miss Lorna Dawson was frocked in fine black lace, the skirt ankle length. Mrs. Morey's pale pink georgette was trimmed with bands of silver in floral designs, the skirt dipping at the side. Mrs. Covernton was gowned in black georgette, beaded in jet. Mrs. Allan Lamphee wore a frock of black spotted silk net, scarlet satin shoes giving a touch of color. Dr. Violet Plummer wore a black velvet and gold tissue coat over a black toilette. Mrs. Frank Verco was in a mauve georgette costume beaded in gold. Mrs. Hew O'Halloran Giles chose a frock of black lace, with long panel effect on one side. Mrs. E. W. Hawker was wearing a toilette of black georgette. Mrs. A. E. V. Richardson wore a handsome pale blue and silver brocaded cloak, with a collar of white fox fur over a white and silver frock. Mrs. Ray Kenihan was in a black lace toilette, with scarlet satin shoes.

Mrs. Arthur Waterhouse was wearing a toilette of black georgette embroidered in silver. Miss Cussens chose a white frock with crystal beading. Mrs. T. A. Corbin was smartly frocked in fine black lace, with long panel effect mounted over flesh pink. Mrs. Harold Davies was gowned in black georgette and jet. Mrs. Darcy Cowan's black georgette frock was sequined in silver. Mrs. W. Hamilton was frocked in powder blue beaded georgette. Mrs. H. W. D. Stoddart was wearing a smart frock of green floral chiffon, with panels of gold lace. Mrs. H. H. E. Russell wore black georgette and black lace. Mrs. V. Newland chose a primrose georgette frock with double skirt embroidered in gold. Mrs. Alec Sandison was gowned in black georgette, embroidered in gold. Mrs. H. P. Beaver was in a shrimp pink marocain toilette. Dr. Marie Brown wore a costume of black georgette worked in silver. Mrs. F. Steele Scott was gowned in black georgette banded with taffeta and fine jet beading. Mrs. T. R. Bowman was wearing black chenille embossed georgette. Mrs. Kerr Grant wore an orchid mauve toilette, with silver beading. Miss Russell was gowned in black georgette, with touches of silver. Mrs. Keith Angas wore a black lace frock beneath a marmot coat. Mrs. J. S. Proctor was in black lace under a gold tissue coat.

Others present were:—Sir George Murray, the Lord Mayor, Dr. and Mrs. Hone, Dr. and Mrs. F. Goldsmith, Dr. and Mrs. Dawson, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Fry, Dr. A. E. V. Richardson, Miss Peacock, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. McCoy, Dr. and Mrs. Pulleine, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bickford, Dr. and Mrs. Matheson, Professor and Mrs. Macbeth, Mrs. B. Poulton, Misses Poulton, Dr. W. A. Giles, Dr. and Mrs. Dunstan, Professor and Mrs. Hicks, Sir John and Lady Newlands, Professor and Mrs. Harvey Johnston, Miss N. Noonan, Mr. and Mrs. H. Gill Williams, Mrs. F. Villeneuve Smith, Dr. and Mrs. St. John Poole, Dr. and Mrs. Percival Cherry, Sir David Gordon, Sir Henry Newland, Senator Sir John Newlands, Sir Douglas Mawson, Drs. J. S. Proctor, Humphrey Makin, T. G. Wilson, A. F. Stokes, B. H. Morris, Darcy Cowan, Alec Sandison, Frank Beare, Eugene McLaughlin, F. Steele Scott, H. H. E. Russell, C. T. C. de Crespigny, Roy Burston, Bronte Smeaton, F. S. Hone, W. A. Verco, W. Hamilton, Covernton, J. A. Bronnin, Harry Gilbert, Gilbert Brown, H. W. D. Stoddart, H. Wunderly, Geoffrey Morey, R. Kennihan, Alan Lamphee, William Sangster, John O'Brien, John Gunson, Dunston, Clive Sangster, A. M. Cudmore, and Britten Jones. Messrs. E. W. Hawker, Michael Hawker, Frank Verco, Hew O'Halloran Giles, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Simpson, Mrs. A. A. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scales, Mr. Keith Angas, and Miss Dryer.

The marquee, canvas corridors, and the whole of the furnishings were supplied by Messrs. Flavel & Sons.

ADV. 21-6-29

EDUCATION AND POLITICS

ADDRESS BY SIR ARCHIBALD STRONG

At the luncheon conducted by the Commonwealth Club at the Town Hall on Thursday, Mr. J. G. Sinclair occupied the chair. The speaker was Professor Sir Archibald Strong, whose subject was "Education and Foreign Politics: A Survey and a Plan."

Sir Archibald said he desired to enter a plea for some scheme of education regarding foreign affairs, not so much for juveniles, as for adults, and that involved self-education. He suggested that an educational bureau, operating throughout the Empire, might render service to the whole world by providing a better knowledge of what was going on in foreign countries. That knowledge was vital to the peace of the world. It might also give parts of the Empire vital information regarding what other parts were doing. It might also contradict mis-statements regarding Britain and the Empire, which came from men in other countries. As an instance, he referred to his experience in France in 1925, when he saw the report of an utterance by one who had since achieved Cabinet rank in France. That politician had declared that it was bad taste on the part of Great Britain to remind France of the debt incurred during the war, as Britain's sacrifice was infinitesimal, compared with that of France. The foreign politician quoted ratios said to have been compiled by Germans. The estimate was not correct, for Britain had over 8,000,000 enlisted in the war, and was guarding the seas, but if the statement had been accepted and was uncontradicted, they could hardly blame the French for the feeling of bitterness which he had noticed. The matter could have been cleared up by direct and cogent refutation, and if met and refuted, such utterances would not cause so much bitterness.

Inaccurate Reports

In the United States recently he saw violent attacks on Great Britain. He did not regard them as representing the feeling of the people, but they were constant, and should have been refuted. One was that Britain was so tyrannous in her administration that the Dominions were waiting the chance to break away. He had spoken to Englishmen about it, and had seen the editorial staff of the paper, and pointed out to them that a Labor Ministry was in power in Australia when war was declared, and that the Labor Prime Minister had declared that Australia was in the war to the last man and last shilling, and that the Australian Navy was contributing 18/ per head to the upkeep of the navies. That was not a bad contribution from a country "seething with discontent." (Applause.) If America believed Britain was tyrannous and corrupt, would it not be a grave deterrent to a better understanding between those nations? It would be worth while to have an institution or bureau ready to refute these misleading statements. The value of a bureau to the Empire would be considerable. When travelling in India he had met Indians who stated that it was commonly believed that Australia hated and despised the people of India, and would not allow the Australian boats to touch Bombay. He had explained the position with regard to the immigration question to the people there, and pointed out that the White Australia policy was to prevent the people of Australia from hating the people of India, as they might