

M.D. Degree For University Lecturer

Tomorrow, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the Adelaide University (Dr. C. T. C. de Crespigny) will present the diploma of Doctor of Medicine to Dr. R. F. Matters, M.B., B.S.

Dr. Matters is a member of the British Medical Association, and a part-time lecturer at the University.

ADV. 27-6-29

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

FIFTY YEARS OF WORK

ADDRESS BY DR. CORBIN

The annual meeting of the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association was held on Wednesday night, when the presidential address was delivered by the retiring president (Dr. John Corbin).

Dr. Corbin selected as his subject a short sketch of some of the members and activities of the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association, being influenced in his choice by the fact that it was the jubilee year of the association in South Australia.

He stated that the only record of the formation of the association and of the men who originated it was contained in the minute books, which fortunately had been preserved.

The original meeting was held at Trew's South Australian Hotel, on June 19, 1879, at which Dr. Gosse presided.

The society was formed with the object of promoting the advancement of medical and surgical science by the reading and discussion of original papers and exhibition of specimens and cases, to form a bond of union among the members of the professional and a medium through which their opinion could be easily ascertained and expressed, and to advance the general and social interests of the profession.

The election of an ethical committee, to promote fair and honorable practice and to decide on questions of professional usage and courtesy, was also provided for.

The first council consisted of:—President, Dr. Gosse; vice-presidents, Dr. Corbin; treasurer, Dr. Hawkins; secretary, Dr. Cleland. Other members were Drs. Gardner, Clindinning, and Way.

The objects of the original founders were fundamentally the same as those aimed at at the present day, with possibly a wider scope at present.

In January, 1880, thirty members signed a petition to the parent body of the association for the formation of a branch and were the first elected members of the association in South Australia.

At that time there were on the register of members of the medical profession in the State 78, and at the present time there were 400 members of the South Australian branch, and the number of registered practitioners in the State was 459.

At the original meeting a committee was formed to go into the question of having a local medium of communication by means of a quarterly journal.

In March, 1880, this committee reported to the council and the publication of the journal was postponed indefinitely.

In May, 1881, the "Australian Medical Gazette" was started, and in 1895 taken over by the New South Wales branch of the association.

As the outcome of a motion by Dr. H. S. Newland (now Sir Henry) at a meeting of the South Australian branch in 1911, the gazette, together with the "Australian Medical Journal" were taken over by the Australian branches and incorporated in a weekly periodical called the "Medical Journal of Australia."

During the negotiations the South Australian branch was represented by Dr. F. S. Hone, who became the first local director of the company formed to carry on the publication.

Dr. Newland and Dr. John Corbin became the first South Australian members of the company.

Formation of Federal Body

A Federal committee was formed in 1912, largely as the outcome of suggestions and work of Dr. W. T. Hayward. It had done a great deal towards furthering the affairs of the branches with the parent association, each other, and the public, and had the approval of the Federal Government, being consulted by the Ministry on affairs of medical moment.

The first medical congress was held in Adelaide. The admission of women as members of the association was first discussed on March 24, 1892, and was referred to members by circular for an expression of opinion.

Seventy-five replies were received from the 96 members, of which 46 were against the proposal.

At the Nottingham meeting of the parent body, later in the same year, it was decided by a majority of eight to one that women should be eligible for membership.

This was attributed to the special application on the point by the South Australian association. The property of the British Medical Hall Company was obtained as a home for the branch after many months of negotiations, the result of the effort of Sir Henry Newland, then secretary of the branch.

As a result of the generosity of some of the members, shares in the company to the value of £1,320 were presented to the branch, and it was hoped that at a not too distant date a new home for the branch might be erected.

The Medical Profession in War

During the South African war members of the branch were prominent in offering their services, and in the European war, of the 250 members of the branch 140 were serving at home or abroad in war activities.

From 1915 Sir Joseph Verco was president of the branch, and directed the affairs and safeguarded the interests, as far as possible, of the members who were serving abroad.

During the war period the annual dinner was abandoned, and the subscriptions which would have been paid were collected annually and handed over to the medical relief funds. The medical school at the University of Adelaide was founded in 1884, in the first place by large gifts from Sir Thomas Elder, which were largely influenced by Sir Edward Charles Stirling, who was president of the branch in 1888-89.

A PANEGYRIC ON ADELAIDE

Charles Jury's Poetical Tribute

MR. Charles Jury is a brilliant Adelaide product, who, if he had pleased might have been the first Jury Professor of English Literature (a "Chair" founded by his family) at our University; but he preferred to devote himself to the creation of literature instead.



Mr. Charles Jury

Resident now in England, he has sung the praises of his boyhood's home in a remarkable poem that is the preface to his new play, Love and the Virgins. This Encomium of Adelaide is an ode in the classic manner:—

I am come, my city, to find thee out from the sea; As the Asian bird Who cries on thy smooth-beaten shore When the green wave flashes with light, I am come for my spring to thee. City, mother of shepherds, City sweet, Mead-built, with thy morning in the hills. Whose land is dry, and dry the air, And when summer hath parched thy pastures bare Thou sittest by waterless rills And criest for rain, like a swallow.

There is praise of Adelaide's "stripling sons, marble-bright, swifter than brown doves, fairer than leopards;" also of "thy daughters, thy maiden-eyed, their loves ungiven, fleet-ankled, morning-breasted, fair as the stars ere the veil-less moon arise." Due recognition goes also to "the vine, the father of song," with our wool, wheat, and olives; and there is a fine tribute to our soldiers:—

Not memory of past years nurtured their pride; Their hearts were legends and by these they died. And their hearts were a vision seen of thee.

Those begotten of the power of liberty Out of thy womb, out of thy breast Sucked splendour, and their splendour brought the rest.

We have everything, it would seem, but culture, and especially we lack song.

More Culture Demanded

Once more is voiced here the old wonder that our State, so Greek in its freedom and its climate, so proud of its measure of culture, has so poor an output in song.

O fierce unpondering city, Fruit of necessity, child of toil, . . . Shall then thy lips no song upraise For joy in thy children, living and dead? Wilt thou brood, wilt thou wonder, wilt thou sing? O museless city, ungarlanded.

The poet hopes that somehow, sometime, "Such a city as thou might rise, and bear A race whose spirits lusty and fair Should build again, on a virgin plain, Athens, the splendour of thought." And the poem ends with these beautiful lines:—

O city, the fool derides whom wisdom hears. Hear thou; with thy slumbering mind unveiled Accept my music. 'Tis a low sweet word, Most like the wandering voice Borne on wave-shadowing wings, by that faint bird From Asian shallows sailed, Whom the warm sunshine and thy winds rejoice.

Adelaide may well be proud of her son. Even from schoolboy days, he has had the gift of expression. Now, with experience of war and of travel, he should have much to express. If he can but free himself from the bondage of Keats and the Greeks, lay aside his all-too-determined classicism, just as marked now as it was in those far-off pre-war days, and condescend to the tongue of our own century—if he can do this, he should be the poet for whom Australia has been waiting. —S. TALBOT SMITH.

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Mr. Peter Bornstein

Mr. Peter Bornstein, leading violinist in the Anna Pavlova orchestra, will remain in Adelaide when the dancer leaves. He has been appointed teacher of the violin at the Elder Conservatorium.

tain conditions polymerised to rubber. In 1908 a British syndicate set to work upon the problem of the commercial synthesis of rubber, and it was shown that isoprene could readily be catalytically polymerised to rubber by contact with metallic sodium. A cheap raw material was essential, for turpentine as a source of isoprene was out of the question on account not only of the cost, but also of the limited supply. The question was solved by Fernbach, who produced a culture capable of fermenting starch to give high yields of acetone, which was suitable for the preparation of isoprene and allied compounds. The synthesis was completed, but no interest was at present taken in the question as, owing to the low price which natural rubber commanded in the world's markets, the preparation of the synthetic material could not be placed on an economic basis. Fermentation processes giving high yields of acetone were widely investigated during the war, on account of the need for acetone in connection with the manufacture of explosives. The most efficient cultures—fermenting grain which was of too low grade for food—produced butyl alcohol in addition to the acetone. The butyl alcohol was regarded as waste product, and the availability of that waste material was largely responsible for the development of an entirely new industry, for derivatives such as butyl acetate and butyl tartrate were found to be admirable solvents for nitrocellulose esters, and enabled the cellulose paints to be placed on the market at a reasonable cost. Fermentations might be turned in numerous other directions by the use of the enzymes elaborated by different bacteria and moulds, and it seemed that the possibilities of future commercial exploitation were exceedingly great, for the methods were, in general, cheap, involving little expenditure for upkeep, labor, or material. As Sir William Pope once said, the organisms could make use of the solar energy and required neither wages nor an eight-hour day.

Synthetic Sugar

It was by enzyme synthesis that the products were built up in plant animal metabolism. Recently determined efforts had been made in the laboratory to accomplish the synthesis of sugars from the raw materials used by the plant, namely, carbon dioxide and water. Baly and his co-workers had achieved a certain measure of success, and had actually obtained sugars in the earlier experiments, powders capable of absorbing carbon dioxide through their surfaces were suspended in water in quartz vessels, and carbon dioxide bubbled through the solution in the presence of ultra-violet light. Small amounts of sugar-like substances were formed in the solutions, but the results could not be called satisfactory. Baly then tried to take another lesson from the plant, and used colored catalysts capable of absorbing carbon dioxide, the carbonates of cobalt and nickel being found most effective. Ordinary light was employed, and greater quantities of sugar were obtained. Although the amount of carbohydrates produced in the laboratory a square centimetre of surface was not seriously at variance with that produced in the leaves of four plant species as determined by independent workers, it was evident that there was no hope of commercial exploitation of synthetic sugars.

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"WORK WELL AFTER LOSING SELF-CONCEIT"

Mr. Holden Finds University Men Valuable Employes

UNIVERSITY men make good employes when they lose their self-conceit and settle down to work," said Mr. E. W. Holden, managing director of Holden's Motor Body Builders, yesterday.

He was addressing the first luncheon of the new Union Club at the Adelaide University.

Beginning with a declaration that, contrary to general belief, the members of the University council were not old fossils, Mr. Holden said their interest in the students was shown by a subsidy to the sports association and other progressive movements during the past two years.

Adelaide was just beginning to establish University corporate life, without which students' development on the spiritual plane was stunted.

Mr. Holden said that he had experimented with university graduates in his business. At first they believed they knew everything, and were a failure; but after they lost their self-conceit they settled down to work, and were the most valuable employes.

They would have been better from the start had the University been able to give them a corporate life.