

**RADIUM FOR CANCER**

**COMMONWEALTH OFFER**

**State Cabinet Awaits Reports**

As a supply of radium purchased by the Commonwealth Government for the treatment of cancer has reached Australia the Federal authorities propose to make a distribution of the element to certain hospitals.

It is understood that an offer was made to the Adelaide Hospital Board stating that a supply of radium could be made available to that institution if the authorities would be willing to sign certain agreements regarding the custody of the valuable element, and complied with conditions laid down by the Federal Government.

The Hon. H. Tassie (Chief Secretary) was asked today if a decision had been reached by the State Government regarding the acceptance of the offer of the Commonwealth.

"An offer," he replied, "has been received from the Commonwealth Government, and reports on the practicability of complying with the conditions associated with the offer are being obtained."

"I am hopeful that the result will be to secure from the Commonwealth the loan of the radium that is offered. With the general support of the public that might be anticipated I am hopeful that progress would be made in dealing with cancer."

**Final Report Awaited**

I am awaiting the final report on the subject, and an announcement will be made at a later date," he concluded.

At a meeting of the Cancer Advisory Committee held in Melbourne, over which Dr. J. H. L. Cumpston (Commonwealth Director-General of Health) presided, it was considered to be of the first importance that provision of facilities for treatment by radium should not be dissociated from the general work in connection with the control of cancer.

It was decided that the foundation of the system which should be adopted in Australia should be the establishment of a large centre in each capital city. At this centre would be treated all cases of cancer referred to it. Research work would be organised and other functions in connection with cancer work would be correlated.

In addition, it was proposed that emanation plants should be established at at least two of these centres for the distribution of radium emanation within the city concerned and generally throughout the Commonwealth.

It was also resolved that at each large centre a staff be appointed of specialists who should, as a condition of appointment, undertake to devote such attention as would be necessary for them to become qualified in the use of radium and other methods of treatment, and to co-operate in every way in the campaign against cancer.

**Costly Centres**

The establishment and maintenance of such centres would necessarily be costly, but those responsible for the outlay could look for some return. The terms under which the loan of radium would be made include a stipulation that the element provided by the Commonwealth should be accessible to all persons within the Commonwealth, such treatment not necessarily being free.

In view of the great intrinsic value of the radium it is necessary that adequate precautions should be taken for its safe custody. There is also an imperative necessity for safeguarding from injury persons associated with its utilisation.

Therefore the Commonwealth Government is desirous that some responsible form of local organisation should be established in each State to control the use of radium.

It is such an organisation that the faculty of medicine at the Adelaide University has recommended should be formed. The council of the University has adopted the report of the faculty proposing that a cancer treatment and research committee be appointed to perform research work and treatment of cancer not only by radium but by other methods.

cer treatment under the scheme laid down at the Melbourne conference of the Cancer Advisory Committee, and to co-operate with Dr. Burrows in arranging post-graduate work and other activities.

(2) To take steps to initiate a campaign for raising funds, for installing a deep X-ray therapy plant and other necessary equipment, and for research work, such campaign to include the holding of a public meeting at which the Minister of Health for the Commonwealth shall be asked to speak.

(3) On behalf of the University Council to direct the expenditure of funds for cancer treatment and research given by public subscription, bequest, or Governments.

(4) Generally to stimulate public interest and educate the public on the urgency of the cancer problem.

(5) Report annually in July of each year on its activities for the past year.

REG. 17-7-28

**Musical Caps and Gowns.**

Sir—Hoods worn by University graduates, like all reputable robes, gowns, and caps, are outward signs, authorized by some legally responsible body, that their wearers hold some position, or possess knowledge, ability, capacity, or skill to some degree of proved excellence. The public may therefore feel assured that these vestments represent claims and qualifications in which they may place perfect confidence.

Are not the caps and gowns with which Adelaide and its suburbs are being saturated by musical tyros intended to suggest the same idea regarding the musical ability of their wearers? The claim is unwarranted, and the procedure should not be tolerated. From an educational aspect, I venture to assert that this state of affairs would not be possible in any subject but music. A false standard of musical culture is being set up. Do not the holders of these certificates—they are not diplomas—set up as qualified teachers? Is not the necessary judicious instruction of beginners by these young people impossible? The natural ability of young learners should receive wise and skilful direction for its proper development.

Pecuniary advantage rather than the advancement of musical art seems to be the motive that sways the institutions and teachers concerned; vanity, or the fees of prospective pupils, the motive animating the wearers of the caps and gowns. It is the duty of those who understand to enlighten the public as to the little value of the display in question.—I am, Sir, &c., EDWARD HOWARD.

Angas street.

NEWS 17-7-28

**CANCER RESEARCH**

**Empire Conference Open**

**AUSTRALIA REPRESENTED**

(SPECIAL TO "THE NEWS")

LONDON, July 16.

King George, in welcoming the delegates to the Empire Cancer Campaign conference today, said it was gratifying that so many distinguished scientists had gathered to study an enemy, the defeat of which required most efficient staff work and the closest co-operation.

Remembering the thousands of sufferers, he felt that if the discussions led to an advance in the diagnosis and treatment, or even to the palliation of the disease, the conference would have earned the gratitude of mankind.

The Australian delegates to the cancer conference are:—

Drs. Park (representing the Commonwealth Government), Blackburn, and Dansey (Sydney), Julian Smith (Melbourne), and McKillop (Brisbane).

Dr. Park said that those who anticipated most important discoveries would be disappointed. The sole purpose of the conference was to facilitate the interchange of medical opinion and experience.

The morning would be occupied by lectures and discussions, and the afternoons by visits to medical institutes, which are especially attractive to oversea delegates.

The Commonwealth is vitally concerned in radiology, and in the details of the public campaigns against cancer by the use of the lead treatment, which is still in the experimental stage.

The Duke and Duchess of York will receive the delegates on Wednesday. On the following day Dr. McKillop will address the conference.

**CANCER RESEARCH.**

**DR. F. S. HONE'S PROPOSALS.**

**A COMMITTEE BEING FORMED.**

The Council of the University has adopted a report of the faculty of medicine recommending that a cancer treatment and research committee be appointed to carry out the proposals contained in a letter addressed to the Dean of the Faculty by Dr. F. S. Hone. The committee is now being formed. Dr. Hone's letter is as follows:—

During the past few years considerable attention has been directed to the rapidly rising death-rate in Australia from cancer, which is in such marked contrast to the fall that has taken place in the last 30 years in infantile mortality and the death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis. Following on this, attacks on the cancer problem have been initiated from different aspects. These attacks are generally summarised under the term "cancer research." But it must be remembered that in regard to cancer, research includes investigation into different methods of treatment as well as into causation and prevention. In New South Wales, for instance, the Sydney University committee, which has raised £100,000 during the last five years, is called the Cancer Research and Treatment Organisation. In Queensland, a somewhat similar committee, unconnected with the University, aims at installing X-ray plants for treatment in three large centres of population in addition to research work. Similarly the Commonwealth authorities, who have during the past few years made money available in each State for research into problems connected with cancer, have at the same time purchased 10 grammes of radium, for loan to the several States in an attempt to standardise and improve treatment and investigate results of treatment.

In South Australia the position, roughly speaking, is as follows:—(1) The Commonwealth Department of Health is at present arranging to loan to the Adelaide Hospital one-half gramme of radium to initiate a campaign of treatment locally along the lines determined upon at a conference held in Melbourne early this year. But if the campaign is to be carried out in complete accordance with the resolutions of that conference, a local committee is required to supervise treatment and act in conjunction with Dr. Burrows (the expert from England) in regard to post-graduate work and other activities. A plant for deep X-ray therapy is also required at the Adelaide Hospital, for which it is said no funds are available. (2) The Adelaide University two years ago constituted a cancer committee with the primary purpose of supervising experimental treatment of cancer by colloidal lead, though its functions were not limited to that. This committee has not been functioning with any great activity. It is felt in various quarters that the enquiry into this method of treatment is worth prosecuting vigorously, and that the committee should be enlarged and strengthened. (3) Professor Brailsford Robertson is continuing the research work which he began three years ago under the Commonwealth grant to the University. Professor Hicks has also some experimental investigations in hand, and Professor Kerr Grant is anxious to investigate certain physical problems connected with radium, and in particular the possibilities of high tension X-ray apparatus. It would seem wise for the University to provide opportunities for other workers who may have ideas of investigation likely to prove fruitful. (4) During the past year a bequest of nearly £20,000, subject to a life interest in the estate, has been made to the University "for medical research work in such a way as the Council of the University may in their absolute discretion decide, and without limiting their choice a wish is expressed that the moneys coming to them under this bequest shall if practicable at the time be used chiefly for research work in connection with cancer."

The immediate necessities here are therefore:—1. The raising of money by private and public subscription to provide a plant at the Adelaide Hospital for deep X-ray therapy and for such other investigations as may prove necessary. 2. The formation of a local committee to supervise treatment in conjunction with Dr. Burrows. For evident reasons such a committee should be vitally connected with some legally constituted authority, and for many reasons the University would seem to be the most suitable body. 3. Vigorous exploration of the possibilities of the colloidal lead method of treatment of cancer. 4. The maintenance of the research work into natural history and causation of cancer at present being conducted at the University.

The more remote necessities are:—1. The provision of money to maintain and extend these and other investigations. 2. The provision and trying out of an organisation to utilise to the best advantage the above bequest when it becomes available. In an attempt to meet these various needs I beg to propose the appointment

by the Adelaide University Council of a Cancer Treatment and Research Committee in connection with the Adelaide University, consisting of the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, chairman of the finance committee, medical members of the council, Professors Kerr Grant, Brailsford Robertson, Cleland, and Hicks, the directors of lectures in medicine, surgery, and obstetrics, the Inspector-General of Hospitals, the medical superintendent of the Adelaide Hospital, the director of the South Australian Government Laboratory, the chairman, deputy chairman, and pathologist of the Adelaide Children's Hospital, the president and two other members of the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association (to be elected annually), and the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Dr. A. A. Lendon, the Hon. Walter Duncan, and Messrs. H. W. Crompton and A. A. Simpson, with power to add to their numbers, the registrar to be convener; the committee to carry out the following functions, either in itself or by delegation to special committees appointed for specific purposes, with the approval of the council:—1. To arrange with the Commonwealth Department of Health and the Adelaide Hospital authorities for supervision of cancer treatment under the scheme laid down at the Melbourne Conference of the Cancer Advisory Committee, and to co-operate with Dr. Burrows in arranging post-graduate work and other activities. 2. To take steps to initiate a campaign for raising funds, for installing a deep X-ray therapy plant and other necessary equipment, and for research work, such campaign to include the holding of a public meeting, at which the Minister of Health for the Commonwealth shall be asked to speak. 3. On behalf of the University Council to direct the expenditure of funds for cancer treatment and research given by public subscription, bequest, or Government. 4. Generally to stimulate public interest and educate the public on the urgency of the cancer problem. 5. Report annually in July of each year to the council on its activities for the past year.

NEWS 18-7-28

**RADIUM FOR CANCER**

**Commonwealth Purchase**

If the authorities decide to accept the offer of the Commonwealth Government for the loan of a quantity of radium for the treatment of cancer Adelaide Hospital will be able to treat patients on a more extensive scale than in the past, said Dr. J. G. Sleeman (medical superintendent) today.

Radium bromide has been used at the hospital for years, he added, and certain conditions of the skin, as well as cancer, have been beneficially treated.

The purchase of radium worth £100,000 by the Commonwealth was made with a view to instituting throughout Australia centres at which the element could be used to an extent and in a manner never before attempted in the Commonwealth. In the past Adelaide Hospital had not had to refuse to treat any patient with radium, although the quantity at the disposal of the institution was limited.

The erection of extensive buildings sought by the Commonwealth to deal with patients under the loan scheme would mean an expenditure that the State Government did not see its way clear to incur at present. It was hoped, however, that a satisfactory agreement on the subject would be reached between the Commonwealth and State authorities.

The decision of the Adelaide University Council to assist in research work with radium in the event of its being lent by the Commonwealth should lead to investigations of great value to the health of the community.

ADV. 18-7-28

**RADIUM FOR ADELAIDE.**

Referring yesterday to the proposal to establish the cancer treatment and research committee, suggested to the Council of the University by Dr. F. S. Hone, the Chief Secretary (Hon. H. Tassie) said the negotiations having relevance to the subject were being conducted with the Federal Government. An offer had been received by the Government from the Commonwealth Government, to make available for use in Adelaide some radium on loan in connection with cancer research work. Certain conditions were attached to the offer, which involved so large an expenditure of money that the Government had been unable to accept. As a result of further negotiations, a tentative offer had been made by the Commonwealth to supply radium for a period, under less onerous conditions than in the previous proposal, but in the end the terms of the original offer had to be carried out. He was afraid that without financial support from the public, the larger scheme would have to be left alone, but he hoped it would be possible shortly to obtain the use of the radium as suggested, and that it might assist in the establishment of some authority in the State to undertake more extensive research. That was all he desired to say until he received a report on the subject.