

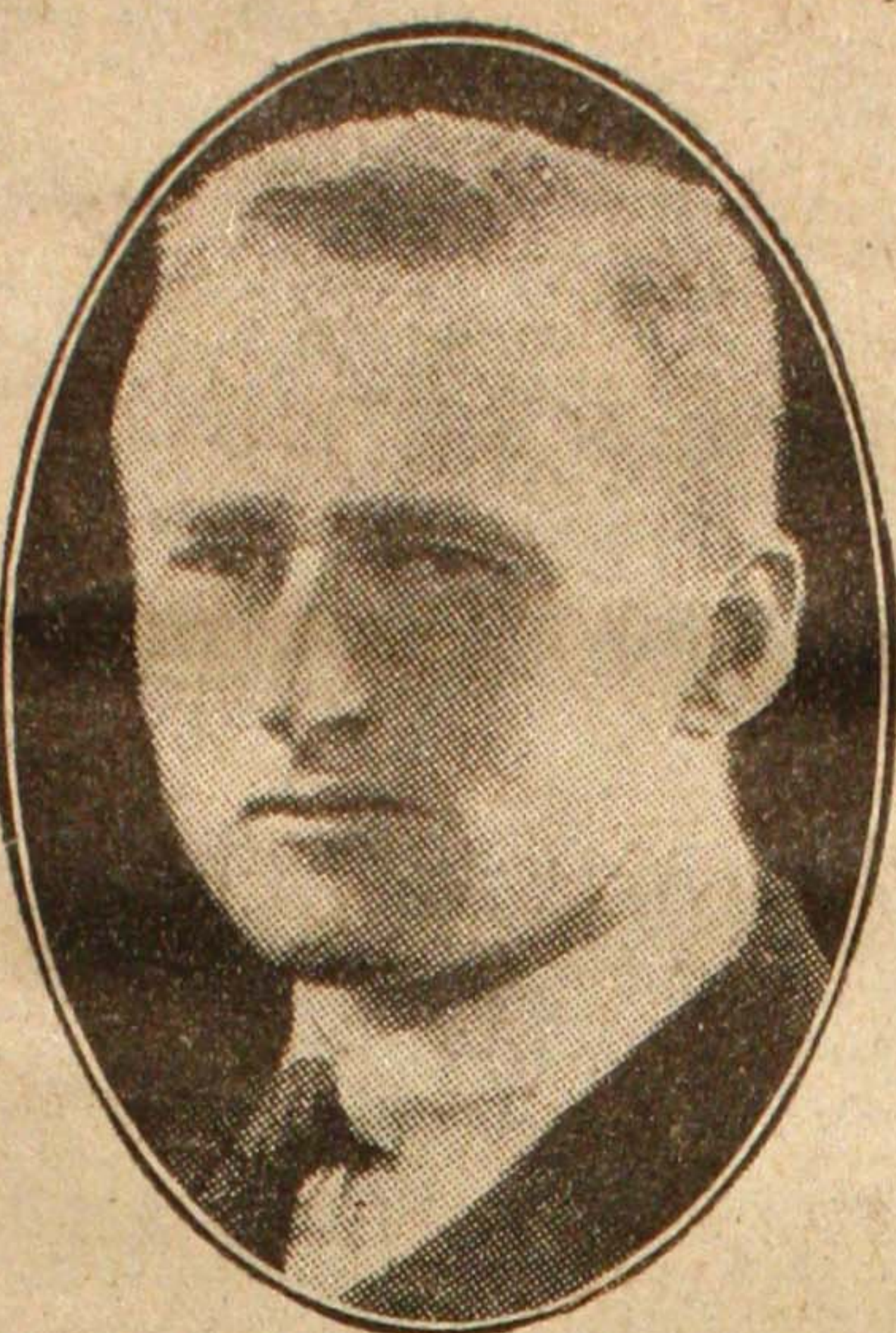
ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

STUDENTS' ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

The tenth Conservatorium concert of the season was given on Monday night in the Elder Hall by the Conservatorium Students' Orchestra, assisted by the brass instrumentalists of the South Australian Orchestra. Mr. W. H. Foote started the Students' Orchestra seven years ago, and since that time nearly three hundred students have passed through it. Although between eighty and ninety per cent. of the 43 students now in the orchestra joined this year, it has never before reached its present high standard. The enthusiasm of the members is shown in the splendid work that is being done. The popular programme and the promise of good work attracted a large audience, and they were not disappointed. The instruments were well balanced, and under the baton of Mr. Foote a clear, even tone was noticeable throughout the programme. The opening number, overture, "Egmont" (Beethoven), is considered to be among the noblest fruits of Beethoven's work. In this the strings showed to good advantage, making a graceful accompaniment to the clear liquid tones of the clarinet, with the echoing notes of the oboe played an octave higher. The second number was a selection from the opera "Patience" (Sullivan), which comprised practically the whole of the vocal numbers and choruses. At the beginning the violins were a little ragged, but they quickly came into line, and went on to the end with a swinging rhythm. The item met with well merited applause, and the last chorus was repeated. "Solemn Melody" (Walford Davies) for strings and organ, a wonderful inspiration, was beautiful and effective. The full sustained chords are followed by a melodious passage for the cellos with the organ in the background. The violins take up the theme, the strong legato notes rising to the top of the majestic tones of the organ. The audience demanded a repetition of the item. "Three Dream Dances" (Coleridge Taylor) were dainty and effective, reflecting the gifted genius of the composer. Haydn's symphony (No. 3 Salomon's) was a somewhat ambitious number, which was creditably performed, apart from a slight wavering of the strings in the second movement. The "surprise" chord in the middle of the movement was particularly effective. Miss Blanche Schneider's sweet clear soprano would have been heard to better advantage in a more suitable number. Coleridge Taylor's "Spring has Come" is pitched a trifle high for her particular type. Mrs. Leslie Matthews was recalled twice after her rendering of the recitative "Sposa Euridice" (Orford) and aria, "Cha faro senza Euridice" (Gluck). Her voice was well under control, and she coped admirably with the Italian enunciation.

Classics Professor

Adelaide University has been singularly fortunate in the succession of brilliant men who have occupied the Hughes Chair of Classics and Comparative Philology. After the departure of Prof. H. Darnley Naylor, the chair remained vacant for a long time. Now in Prof. John Aloysius Fitzherbert the Council of Adelaide University has found an occupant who promises to live up to the highest traditions of this distinguished office. Unusual interest attaches to the ap-



PROF. J. A. FITZHERBERT

pointment of Prof. Fitzherbert, who takes on his duties this term. For one reason he is a native Australian, and for another he is only 36 years of age, a comparative youth for such a post. Prof. Fitzherbert was born in Launceston, Tasmania. In 1913 he graduated Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University, with the rare distinction of obtaining first class honors and university medals in both classics and mathematics. He then entered Trinity College, Cambridge. The following year the young Australian—he was only 22 years of age at the time—was elected to a senior scholarship in classics. On the outbreak of war he enlisted, saw service with the artillery and the Royal Flying Corps, and rose to the rank of lieutenant. For his services he was awarded the Military Cross. At the cessation of hostilities he returned to Cambridge. The interruption did not materially affect his rapid progress. In 1920 he won first-class honors in the classical Tripos, Part II., and received a mark of special distinction in ancient philosophy. Since 1922 Prof. Fitzherbert has been lecturer in Greek, Latin, and comparative philology in Edinburgh University. He accepted his present appointment in Adelaide University early this year. His work at Edinburgh gave him little time for recreation. In addition he was engaged in preparing an edition of Plato's "Kratylos."

REG. 28-8-28 GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION LECTURES.

The University Graduates' Association has undertaken to arrange two lectures by Professor R. S. Conway, Professor of Latin in the University of Manchester, on two topics relating to the classics, but of general public interest. Professor Conway has come to Australia by arrangement with the universities. Professor Darnley Naylor recommended him as one of the best classical scholars of the day, and an interesting lecturer. Professor Conway will speak on September 12 and 14 in the physics lecture theatre in the engineering building. The topics on which he will speak are:—"Rome's Master Mind" and "The Place of Classical Study in the Modern World."

ADV. 30-8-28 CHAMBER MUSIC.

FINAL RECITAL. The final recital of the Elder Conservatorium String Quartet was held in the institute hall on Wednesday evening, when the season was brought to a close with an admirably selected and well rendered programme. The violin parts were taken by Mr. Charles Schilsky and Miss Kathleen Meegan, the viola by Miss Sylvia Whittington, and the cello by Mr. Harold Parsons. Miss Maude Puddy appeared in the piano quartet, which was the last item.

The concert opened with Haydn's string quartet in B flat, a piece calling for delicate handling to avoid a suggestion of accurate technique at the cost of artistic beauty. The work opens with a broad free allegro con spirito, which is followed naturally by an appealing adagio movement. This is relieved by the vivacity of the next movement, in which the violins chiefly hold the theme. This makes way for a brilliant finale. The second item, Beethoven's string quartet in F major (Op. 59), was interpreted with a wonderful depth of artistic feeling, conveying the quiet spirit of Beethoven which is characteristic of the work. The opening movements suggest restrained and sober gladness, followed by a molto adagio e mesto of a deep and haunting sadness, but the lilting Russian allegro with which the composition is brought to a close relieves any impression of heaviness which the music might otherwise carry. The piano quintet was from the work of Florent Schmitt, the French composer of 50 years ago. From a solemn opening, in which the organ-like notes of the cello sound out most effectively, the piece drops into a quiet passage in which the soft sweetness of the piano almost entirely sustains the theme. The other instruments take up the thread with a militant blare, and the movement goes on through a variety of tone colors wholly delightful. The management of the concert was in the hands of Mr. Gus Cawthorne.

NEWS 29-8-28 DISCOVERY OF FOSSILS

Great Scientific Value

KANGAROO ISLAND FIND

Mr. C. T. Madigan (lecturer in geology at Adelaide University) and a party of 25 students visited Kangaroo Island in the week-end and unearthed some fossils which are expected to change the whole stratigraphic geology of the State. Mr. Madigan when questioned admitted that the discovery was of immense scientific importance, and stated that he was preparing a report on the matter for the Royal Society. He was not prepared to state at the present time the exact nature of the fossils nor the site of their discovery. "The fossils indicate a geological period hitherto unidentified in South Australia," he said.

TREATMENT OF CANCER.

To the Editor.

Sir—In your issue of July 28 appears the criticism, under the heading of "Medical Research," of a book entitled "Cancer; the Surgeon and the Researcher," by J. Ellis Barker, author of "Cancer—how it is caused—how it can be prevented." The critic considers the volume in question a more valuable and interesting contribution to the literature on the subject than even the author's previous book. I am not acquainted with the latter work, but I can judge somewhat of its character by the frequent references made to it in the present volume, which I have studied carefully.

Mr. Barker's previous work, published in 1924, and this present volume are both introduced to the public by Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, Bart., a past president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, but the references to this eminent man scattered throughout the text make one wonder whether the work can be considered as another evidence of his eccentricities, for Sir Arbuthnot Lane's colossal operation for the removal of the large intestine as a sort of routine practice for constipation is, I fancy, fairly discredited nowadays, whilst his naive testimonials to certain foods have caused him to be gently reprimanded by his colleagues in the profession. It matters not, however, whether the voice be that of Sir "Jacob" Lane, but the hand that of Mr. "Esau" Barker, the book itself must be judged on its merits.

Viewed as a compilation of material, frequently disjointed from its context, the outcome of an extensive application of scissors and paste, the industry of the compiler must be admired. The tone, however, of his remarks, his immense superiority to all other workers at the problems of cancer, his disgraceful suggestion that surgeons are banded together to suppress the truth about cancer in order to enjoy still longer the lucrative rewards of operations; in the frequent application of such words as "mendacity," "ignorance," and "incompetence" to cancer research workers in laboratories, and to all and sundry who do not subscribe to the doctrines of which Lane and Barker are the exponents, all these factors make it a little difficult to study this book dispassionately.

When Mr. Barker proves with some vehemence that cancer is on the increase relatively and actually we are not able to dispute his statements, but he did not discover this—it was known before he started to write. We may admit that we do not yet know the actual cause of cancer for it has not yet been proved up to the hilt that all malignant disease is due to a germ or microbe—the results of Gye and Barnard's experiments in one particular form, though suggestive, are not convincing as applied to all varieties of cancer. It may be even admitted that the cause, when it is discovered, may prove to be of a nature we have never suspected. Mr. Barker has not succeeded in shattering the knowledge that repeated irritation is a factor in the production of such superficial cancer as we are able to study in the human being and to produce in animals. Again Mr. Barker has not been able to disprove that, as compared with half a century ago, the treatment of cancer by thorough surgical methods has greatly diminished the prospect of recurrence and increased the longevity and comfort of the victim. But how should Mr. Barker know this? He is not a medical practitioner, nor even a trained scientist. Granted that he may be an eminent journalist, we cannot conceive how he is competent to judge of problems which have taxed the best brains in the medical profession, persons of equal intelligence with Mr. Barker, and certainly just as anxious as he to advance the science of health and to abolish preventable diseases.

Mr. Barker's theory as to the cause of cancer, viz., that it is chronic poisoning and that the poisons are admitted into the system from without as well as created within may be true, as also that it may be due to civilisation, but if he knows so thoroughly well its cause, and how to eradicate that cause, why is it that he and his friend, Sir Arbuthnot Lane, have not yet made converts of the intelligentsia of the old country? Mr. Barker's annoyance so frequently expressed in his book is easily explained; he has been ignored; he alleges conspiracy of the hiring medical press of Britain and America; all this is reminiscent of the days of his fellow journalists, Messrs. Pott and Sturk, of Eatonswill fame. Were no danger to be apprehended from this kind of book I should be content to leave it alone but such dangerous fanaticism is contagious, and may induce the victim of cancer to delay seeking advice in the early stages when the prospects of complete cure are so good. (This must be my excuse for writing at some length on this subject.—I am, &c.,

ALFRED LONDON, Chairman Cancer Treatment and Research Committee, the University of Adelaide. August 28, 1928.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

THE CO-OPERATION OF SCIENTISTS.

In an address to the League of Nations' Union on Tuesday, at the weekly lunch at the railway-station dining rooms, on "An Unofficial League of Nations," Professor T. Brailsford Robertson pointed out how the scientists of the world, no matter what their nationalities, collaborated one with another in the interests of the general advancement, and how such collaboration was carried on to some extent in spite of war. The president of the union (Mr. J. H. Vaughan), who occupied the chair, introduced the speaker and spoke of the great work that the universities had done in the cause of world peace.

Professor Robertson began by referring to the fight made against yellow fever, and the scientists who had succumbed to it in an endeavor to find some means of combating it. Yellow fever, bubonic plague, and other diseases had made their claim on a band of eminent men, English, American, Italian, and Japanese, who had been all working to the same end. Again, vaccine therapy owed its discovery to a Russian working in France, whose methods were first applied by an Englishman. There was an international collaboration between scientific men, who paid little or no attention to political differences. In addition to that, there was the semi-official type of organisation, by means of which the whole of the work in any sphere was carried on by scientists all over the world. The most important of them was the Astronomical Union, and others included the Mathematical Union, the Union of Scientific Radio Telegraphy, the Union of Pure and Applied Physics, the Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, in all of which Australia participated officially, the Commonwealth Government contributing towards the funds. Unofficially, through the Australian National Research Council, they were participating to a small extent in anthropological research. Those were forms of co-operation extending throughout the world, of which they saw and heard little, and which were carried on in spite of political antipathies, and often were conducted quietly during war. Australia's one outstanding international scientific duty, in which she did not yet take her share, was the international obligation to provide better facilities for astronomical observation. In the southern hemisphere could be seen a different portion of the heavens from that viewed in the northern hemisphere and South Africa, had at Johannesburg an observatory which had contributed much data of international importance, and at Valparaiso, in South America, was another magnificently equipped observatory. Australia had recently founded an astronomical observatory at Canberra, but it did not as yet possess a great telescope for stellar observation, nor was there in Australia any telescope to be compared with those at Johannesburg and Valparaiso. They cost about £100,000 each, but until Australia provided one she would be the only great country which did not play a sufficient part in astronomical research. It was a shame that Australia should become a reproach to other countries because she had not taken her part in that enterprise.

REG. 29-8-28 AUSTRALIA'S LACK.

Astronomical Facilities.

Members of the League of Nations Union listened to an address of an unusual nature for such gatherings, but on a subject which all recognised as far-reaching and vitally important in the welfare of the peoples of all countries. The speaker, Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, chose as his topic "An Unofficial League of Nations"—a league of scientists and martyrs to research whose efforts have conferred incalculable benefit upon humanity since the beginning of civilization. The gathering, which was well attended, was held in the Railways dining hall, and Mr. J. Howard Vaughan presided. The professor, whose knowledge of biochemical investigations has gained him recognition beyond the confines of his own State, dealt with scientific aspects, causes, and control of elements affecting the health of the different peoples of the world. The parties to medical science belonged to all nations, he said, and were not confined to any one. As an example, vaccine therapy owed its discovery to a Russian, who was working in a French laboratory; and the results of those discoveries were first applied to human beings by an Englishman. There was an