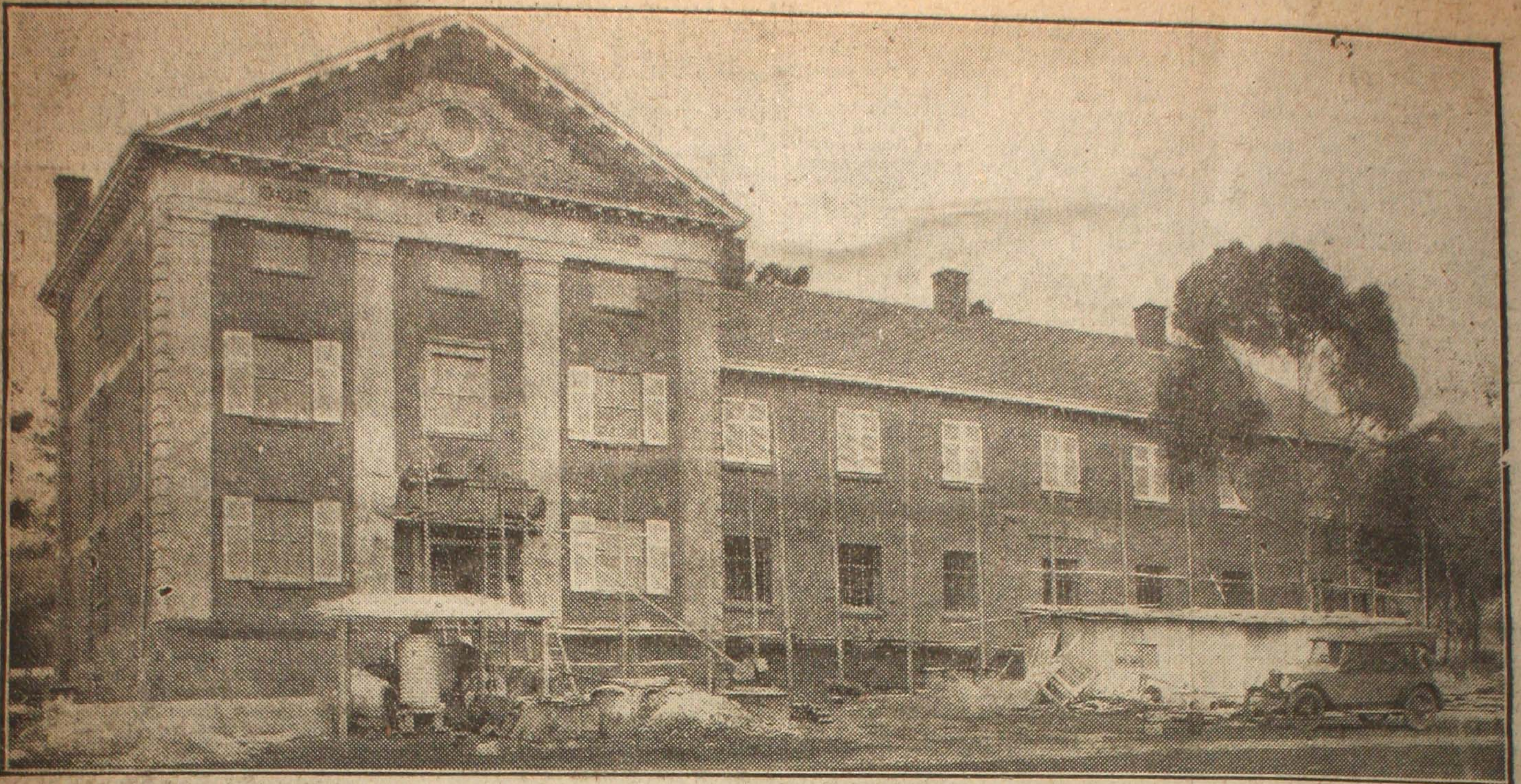


PROGRESS AT WAITE RESEARCH INSTITUTE.



The splendid new Melrose Laboratory which is nearing completion at the Waite Research Institute, Urrbrae.

ADV. 8-9-28

SIR WILLIAM BRAGG ON SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY.

A few years ago the British Association for the Advancement of Science had for its president Professor Horace Lamb, who filled the Chair of Mathematics at the University of Adelaide for a considerable period in its early days. Now another distinguished savant long associated with the academic life of this State, Sir William Bragg, is presiding over the great association which renders such eminent service to the Empire in periodically gathering up the results of scientific research and establishing a link between the workers in that important branch of human activity and the general public. It was appropriate to the disquieting economic conditions of the mother country to-day that for the text of his address at Glasgow on Wednesday Sir William should have taken the progress made in the application of science to industrial pursuits. Until quite recently it was a chronic complaint that British business men failed to appreciate the importance of scientific research, and were allowing their competitors in advanced countries like Germany to gain an advantage by the more vigorous application of the methods of science to the development and improvement of manufactures. Happily, the new president of the British Association is able to report a very substantial change in the attitude of industrialists towards science. A new class of workers engaged in research for associations and firms is, he states, springing up throughout Great Britain, and he holds that much of the hope for the future of industry must be built upon their efforts. The mother country still leads the world in pure science; why should it lag behind America or Germany in the utilitarian application of scientific discovery? British craftsmen possess, as Sir William Bragg testifies, the intelligence, skill, and accuracy to make improvement possible; why should not science direct these valuable qualities towards a greater volume of practical accomplishment? The industrial policy, he says, should aim at taking advantage of the country's human assets by continually seeking to establish new industries and making fresh and profitable adaptations of the old. Political methods may bolster up industry, but its best protection must come from knowledge and skill, enabling it to produce what lies beyond the attainment of industry less advanced.

It might seem to have been hardly necessary for Sir William Bragg to enter upon a defence of science as a mighty instrument for the well-being of humanity. We are only too sadly aware that it has made war more terribly destructive, but the fault is with war, not with science. We know also that scientific speculation, failing sometimes to recognise its limits, and to perceive that a wide field of knowledge necessary to the ethical and spiritual nature of man is occupied by philosophy and religion, tends not seldom to a discomforting materialism. But the spirit of man works under physical conditions in a material environment, and the phenomenal world for the purposes of this life is very real to him, though we have good reason to believe that the ultimate reality lies beyond it. The alliance of soul and body is one of those practical facts which none of us can ignore. And when Sir William Bragg affirms that science is setting forth not to destroy the soul of the nation, but to keep its body and soul together, he is uttering an obvious truth which contains the full justification for all that science is doing to improve the material conditions of existence. "Modern craftsmanship, with all its noise and ugliness," he says, "is giving food, clothing, warmth, and interest to millions who otherwise must die." Science applied to craftsmanship provides not only for bare life, which of itself might not be a blessing, but also enriches life, and not only on the physical side, but the intellectual and even the moral. The pursuit of truth in any of its forms is not merely a mental, but a moral discipline. Incidentally, it is no small thing that, as Sir William points out, the scientific workers in industry, exchanging thoughts easily and accurately with the employers, and yet at the same time, as fellow-workers of the employes, inspiring the latter with an understanding of their purposes and methods, serve as a useful liaison between capital and labor, or, to quote his own phrase, drawn from chemical science, are "the flux that makes them run together." The broadening of sympathies and the encouragement of co-operation rather than conflict in the relations between employers and employed are thus added as real gains to the cultivation of human faculties and the material and moral benefits which inevitably attend the pursuit by scientific means of higher standards of efficiency in industrial operations.

ADV. 7-9-28

CHEMISTRY BUILDING FOR THE UNIVERSITY.

The Council of the University is faced with the necessity of providing a new chemistry building. For some years before his death, Professor Rennie had been calling attention to the urgency of this need, and as a result of his representations the council had planned the required building prepared. It was hoped that the building might have been begun while Professor Rennie still occupied the Chair of Chemistry. He discussed the matter with the Vice-Chancellor, Sir William Mitchell, on the day on which he died, expressing his strong desire to see steps taken to carry out the plan. He realised that his successor could not fairly be expected to carry on under the existing conditions, the difficulties of which Professor Rennie had felt for several years. Unfortunately, the means were not available to enable the council to make a start with the building, which is estimated to cost at least £20,000. This amount must be drawn from general revenue, be made the subject of a special grant by the Government, or be provided by private endowment. It is impossible to derive such an amount from general revenue. In regard to a special Government grant for the purpose, it may be observed that several State Governments have adopted the policy of providing necessary University buildings. The South Australian Government have been generous in this respect, as the fine physics and engineering building suffices to testify. The council, however, does not think that, under present financial conditions, the Government should be asked to provide funds for the chemistry building. The third alternative is that of a private endowment. The University has enjoyed exceptional benefits from individuals who have placed a share of their money at the service of those appointed to control its development, and the council is hopeful that in making public its present need it will be indicating an opportunity to be grasped by someone who has at heart the well-being of the University. The opportunity is not only to put on a proper basis the department of chemistry—one of the central departments of a university in both its strictly academic and its professional activity—but also to erect a fitting memorial to Professor Rennie, whose name will always be associated with the University, almost from the beginning.

REG. 8-9-28

FOSSICKER FOR FOSSILS.

Professor Sir Edgeworth David, F.R.S., is visiting Adelaide in connection with the third volume of the book he is writing on the geology of the Commonwealth in regard to its mineral resources, including artesian water, and to further consult his colleague, Professor Howchin, and do a little field work with him at Tea Tree Creek on the subject of the recently discovered fossils in the Mount Lofty and Flinders Ranges. His mission was also to discuss with Mr. C. T. Madigan, who is in charge of the geological department at the University during the absence of Sir Douglas Mawson, who recently made an important discovery of fossils at Kangaroo Island, a find which would, he considered, modify the views of geologists on the general geological structure of the southern part of South Australia. Moreover, Professor David has taken the first opportunity since the return of Dr. L. K. Ward, the Government Geologist and Director of Mining, from his extensive explorations in Central and Northern Australia, to consult him in regard to his latest views as to the geological structure of the MacDonnell Ranges and of the country lying between them and Lake Nash to the south-west of Mount Isa. On Friday morning Professor David examined the geological formation at Tea Tree Creek, where fossils were recently found in a bed of quartzite, in company with Professor Howchin and Mr. A. R. Alderman, Lecturer on Geology at the Adelaide University.

REG. 10-9-28
Also ADV.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOSSILS.

Professor Sir Edgeworth David, who has been visiting Adelaide in connection with a work he is writing on the geology of the Commonwealth, returned by the Melbourne express on Sunday evening. While in Adelaide he consulted with Professor Howchin, the Government Geologist (Dr. L. Keith Ward)—who made some original investigations in Central Australia recently—and Mr. C. T. Madigan, who has made some important discoveries on Kangaroo Island. Sir Edgeworth paid a visit to Teatree Gully, accompanied by Professor Howchin and Mr. A. R. Alderman, of the Adelaide University. In this area, said the professor, the party discovered the head of one of the large king crabs (Euripterids), and other specimens found showed that these crustacea must have been numerous in the locality about 600 million years ago.