

Advs. 17-8-35

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WORK OF DOCTORS AT ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

Enquiries Being Made In England

"ONLY ALTERNATIVE," SAYS MINISTER

19-AUG. 1935

Referring on Saturday to the shortage of doctors at the Adelaide Hospital, the Acting Premier (Sir George Ritchie) said that if sufficient young doctors were not available the only alternative was for enquiries to be made in England. Knowing the need and appreciating that well-trained men had communicated with the Premier (Mr. Butler) in London with a view to ascertaining the position there, the Minister said that he was fully in touch with the situation at the hospital, having received reports on the matter from the Hon. the Minister General of Hospitals (Dr. Morris). The system at present operating in Adelaide was inferior to that obtaining in Victoria and New South Wales in regard to the utilisation of recently qualified men, who were pleased to get the experience obtainable in a general hospital, which was also a medical school, in the Territory. This practice also applied in Melbourne and Sydney, as in the three States the Universities were conducted on similar lines, whereas in Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania the hospitals were not teaching schools associated with any University in so far as obtaining a medical degree was concerned, although it was understood that in Queensland and Western Australia were working to that end.

"Moral Claim"

Sir George Ritchie said that he was definitely of opinion that in South Australia, where probably the largest grant was made to the University, there was less than in the Territory. He said that the Government on the medical students, not that the whole of the subsidy was for any branch of academic training, but he considered that residence in a large general hospital attached to the University should be of the utmost value and most attractive to the newly qualified men. It would seem that it should be a part of the practical training and almost essential for the completion of their training before going out to general practice. He thought that the medical profession would realise that the confidence of the public had been lessened and secured by the excellent services of the medical officers in the past, and the good name held by the profession in this State should make those young men realise they were following into a heritage which had been made for them and which they should value. The Government did not desire to obtain medical officers abroad if suitable local candidates were available.

"Good Meet Situation"

He said that it was a surprise to him to read in the article in "The Advertiser" that the help which had been given by students last year had been withdrawn, because it was said to be affecting the lectures which they had to take at the University. He could hardly imagine that such action had been essential, as compared with the very great number of their hospital services, and without knowing all the facts it seemed to him that the University could meet the situation and allow those young men to assist in the way desired.

The Minister said that he appreciated most highly the constant reports from the Adelaide Hospital Board, and the services of the honorary staff, all of whom were doing everything possible in the interests of the institution.

A VIEW OF the Medical School at work at the Adelaide University

First Undergraduates

The school opened at the beginning of 1883, and six undergraduates were enrolled. They were—Charles Pope, A. F. Lynch, Cromwell Magarey, F. Goldsmith, A. F. Joyce, and James Robin. Some of the subjects were taught in the east and west rooms of the main University building, and anatomy in the small dissecting room at the rear of the grounds, which served its purpose well for some years. It was intended at that early date to erect a medical building where the Prince of Wales wing now stands, but this plan was subsequently found impracticable on account of the needed accommodation for chemistry and scientific activities, and it was not until the Darling building was erected that a purely medical block was provided on the University grounds.

During the first two years of the school the council of the University was functioning if it could be possibly avoided) not to complete the full five years' curriculum, and, though the medical committee reported against this extension at that time, the council pursued its object and made arrangements for the completion of the course.

Adelaide Hospital As Clinical School It became the Sir Joseph Flinders became actively associated with the plans of the clinical years, and to which he gave the most active and vigorous support. The hospital part of the Adelaide Hospital met the University in its wish that students in the third, fourth, and fifth years should be allowed to enter the hospital for their purely medical training.

With the exception of the unfortunate interruption of the relationships between the teaching staff of the University and the Adelaide Hospital from 1886 to 1890, students of medicine have done their clinical work at the Adelaide Hospital, and this was due to a purely domestic dispute over the management of the hospital, and not to anything whatever connected with the University, but the University suffered seriously from it.

The first undergraduates of the school began their studies in 1883, with the exception of Joyce and Robin, the former of whom completed his course in Melbourne, and the latter in England. During this interruption of the clinical years the course was somewhat rearranged to enable medical students to pursue the first three years of their course, and it was necessary for them to go to other medical schools to complete the fourth and fifth years. In 1885 the course was somewhat rearranged to the requirements of Adelaide students, and in 1890 the hospital was trouble continued until the end of 1889, and in 1900 the clinical work was recommenced at the hospital, so that, by the end of 1902 our own students were being admitted to their degrees, having completed the full five years' curriculum in Adelaide. From that time there has been no interruption of the curriculum, the relationship between the school and the University having become closer.

In 1921, by the passing of the Hospitals Act Amendment Act, the Adelaide Hospital was declared to be a school of instruction for medical students. The University, by its representation on the Adelaide Hospital, created by this Act, received direct representation on a committee among whose duties it was to recommend the personnel of the teaching staff of the hospital.

Equipment of Darling Building

As medical knowledge progressed the accommodation became inadequate at the University. The two first extensions were the building of the Prince of Wales teaching wing in 1901, and the erection of the present dissecting room a year

or two later. This latter had served the needs of anatomy admirably since then. Its equipment has been increased gradually until it can be compared very favorably with similar departments in other medical schools.

Shortly after Professor Brailsford Robertson's arrival in Adelaide, the Darling building was put up to house physiology, bio-chemistry, zoology, pathology, and histology. Together with the medical section of the University library. The equipment of this building is very complete, and would be cited both from the point of view of accommodation for teaching and research to any medical school. Its erection was made possible by the gift of £18,000 by the family of the late Mr. John Darling.

As time went on the necessary teaching could not be carried out in the five years of the original course. A few years ago it was extended to six years, and even now the medical students' time is fully occupied from their matriculation to graduation.

Sir Thomas Elder's Bequests

The profession of anatomy was made possible by Sir Thomas Elder who gave £10,000 for the endowment of the medical school. A few years later gift from the same benefactor of £1,000 enabled the council to undertake the financial responsibility of establishing a five years' curriculum. In 1899 he gave a further £20,000 for the endowment of the school. It has since received bequests from the late Miss Keith Sheridan of £20,000, Mrs. Jane Marks £30,000, and during his lifetime £5,000 from Sir Joseph Veery for the publication of the results of research in medical science.

During the period of existence of the medical school, the amount of material for teaching at the Adelaide Hospital has increased enormously. In 1885 some 2,000 patients a year were admitted and there were about 100 out-patient attendances. Today the in-patient number has risen to 10,000 a year, while the out-patient attendances have risen to more than 81,000. The surgical work has increased so enormously that a comparison of the two figures cannot be made.

There are at present 143 undergraduates. Since the inception of the medical school, 4,400 students have been admitted to medical degrees. Many of these have had distinguished careers, and to take as a few examples, Professor Flourey, who holds the Chair of Pathology at Oxford; Sir Raphael Cilento, who has been a member of the War Office; Professor Davies, of Sydney; and Dr. John Smith, of Melbourne.

MEDICAL SCHOOL JUBILEE THROUGH 5CL-CK

A series of special talks have been arranged in connection with the jubilee of the profession of the medical school of the University of Adelaide. Established in 1883, its first teachers were Sir Edward Stirling and Professor Watson, who taught physiology and anatomy respectively. The first graduates were compared as the courses have advanced. Today the reputation of the Adelaide medical school is high among the universities of the world.

Various speakers will indicate the changes which have taken place in the more than half a century. The first of the series will be broadcast on Monday at 7 p.m., through the Adelaide radio station, and will be the "Fifty Years of the Adelaide Medical School." On Wednesday, at 7.10, "A physician's view of the 'Fifty Years' Progress in Medicine."

VARSITY SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED

17-AUG. 1935

Conference Next Week

The Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Sir William Mitchell) said today that although at the vice-chancellors' committee meeting next week the question of Commonwealth grants towards training in anthropology would be discussed, it was only one of 16 other subjects for discussion, and relatively unimportant.

A message from Melbourne yesterday stated that, according to Prof. Wood Jones, the vice-chancellors' committee would urge that the Commonwealth Government should provide finance for the training of men who were to take up official positions in mandated territories administered by the Government.

Sir William said that there was no likelihood of a chair of anthropology being established in the Adelaide University unless it was financed by the Government.

The meeting of the vice-chancellors of Australia will be held in Melbourne on Monday.

HOUSE SURGEONS FOR HOSPITAL

19-AUG. 1935

University Consideration

Referring today to the shortage of house surgeons at the Adelaide Hospital, and the withdrawing of fifth and sixth year University medical students who had qualified in that capacity there, the Registrar (A. W. Eardley) said that the question was being considered by the Faculty of Medicine of the University.

The University was anxious to help the hospital, and the students were withdrawn because of the additional work required from a house surgeon interfered with the studies of fifth and sixth year men. He could announce nothing more until a report had been received from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

EXAMINATION ENGLISH

(By An Adelaide Father)

Despite what some head masters say, only a literary faddist living in the past can justify Australians in 1935 learning English as it was spelt 300 years ago. Why not get right to the source of the trouble? The educational authorities intervened by "The News" do not appear to be able, or anxious to improve upon the present syllabus, and I respectfully submit the following suggestions—

- If the aim is not to teach the practical and intelligent use of the English language, but to impart a knowledge of English literature, then get away from the present jumble of textbooks and substitute some quality of Gwynne's "The Masters of English Literature."
- If the authorities consider it necessary to set a volume of 900 or more pages like "The History of English Literature," it should be itself embodied enough prose material for students to study without superimposing in the same examination a further volume of prose selections.
- Have at least a faint Australian tinge in a syllabus for Australian young people.
- Do not make such a welter of poetry in these examinations. An understanding of half a dozen good, judiciously selected poems will foster a liking for poetry more happily and successfully than attempting to choke down too much of it.
- Do not give the youth of this country a lively and lasting distaste for Shakespeare by introducing him to them as an examination-grind.
- Spare the examiners their annual grudge about "bad spelling," "sloppy grammar," "poor punctuation," "misused italics," "ill-balanced, unrhyming sentences," "hackneyed diction," "cramped vocabulary," "dull monotony of phrase," "faint, feeble, and trivial," and brain-give them in high school and college studies scope and time (in conjunction with the writing of such subjects) to exercise in the writing of our noble English language with accuracy, clearness, and precision.

Suitable models for style can be selected by the young country teachers, and such applications will serve them better in after life and contribute more to general culture than the "jocose," admiement so pointedly condemned by