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of the Mediterranean region, arrangements were made recently for an offer (Mr. B Wilson) to be located as a laboratory in the area of Bizerta.

It was reported that the Australian Council of Agriculture had approved of the recommendation that Australia's contribution to the Imperial Mycological Institute should be £600 for the year 1935-36, comprising £300 from the Commonwealth and a similar sum from the States on a per capita basis.

Animal Nutrition

The secretary (Mr. L. Lightfoot) said after the meeting that the council received a report from Dr. L. B. Bull, formerly of Adelaide, and now chief of the Animal Health and Nutrition Division of the C.S.I.R. It contained reference to discoveries made by Dr. Bull recently in England, on the Continent, and in America. Dr. Bull also reported that in Australia valuable work was being done at the animal health laboratory at Sydney in connection with the toxic factor in lucerne sheep. Effective methods of treatment had been worked out, and a discovery regarding the effect of organic sulphur had led to great improvements. The discovery had been taken up with enthusiasm in other countries, particularly South Africa. At the animal research station at Townsville, Queensland, great progress had been made in the work on pleuro-pneumonia in cattle. An effective vaccine had been evolved, and experiments were being made to determine how long it gave immunity. If it remained effective for a year or longer, it would be of immense value. Australia had advanced further in this work than any other country.

Dr. Bull pointed out that great advances had been made in investigations into what was commonly called redwater in cattle, which was spread through cattle ticks. In Victoria, arrangements had been made to investigate reports of a dairy cattle disease, of which, with the exception of three, died. Another colony was infected and the disease had obtained. Sir Charles Martin was arranging to carry out experiments on another colony by using the infected cattle rabbits. If the results were satisfactory, arrangements would be made to carry on the work, probably in Australia, but a great deal of investigations would be necessary before it could be established the effectiveness and virulence of the disease. Dr. Bull did not think that the disease would be much value in eradicating the rabbit pest in Australia, but it might prove of use in conjunction with other methods or in rough country where other methods were uneconomical.

Mr. Lightfoot added that the members of the Council were favorably impressed by the information given them by Dr. Bull, and indicated that the results which had been achieved in many directions were of extraordinary value.

Sheep Diseases

Mr. H. R. Marston reported on the work of the division on animal nutrition, particularly on diseases affecting sheep. He told the Council that it was hoped before long to set out in tabular form the information regarding supplementary foodstuffs which could be used most economically in varying conditions. He also gave a description of work on coast disease, which affected an area of 2,000 square miles in the coastal districts of Queensland. It has not extended to Western Australia and Victoria. It left on this type of country for a short length of time, the sheep became emaciated and anaemic, and ultimately died. The only way of using such country for sheep raising was by moving the sheep from time to time to much poorer adjacent ironstone country.

Mr. G. Colman, a member of the Council, who recently made a visit to Northern Queensland, referred to the work on the cross breeding of British breeds of cattle with Zebu cattle. On the first cross between Zebu bulls and cut fat cows, 22 calves had been reared. The experiments were still in progress and would have to be carried on for a number of years before any definite results could be obtained. Mr Colman, however, regarded the result to be very promising.

Mr. Lightfoot said that Zebu cattle were suited to tropical conditions, and it was hoped, by cross breeding, to fix a breed which would be much more suitable to conditions in Queensland than pure British breeds. Zebu cattle were relatively immune from the cattle tick, which caused much trouble in the north.

The Council decided to recommend to the Council members, Sir David Masson, Professor H. A. Woodruff, and Professor E. J. Goddard, should be co-opted for a further period.

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FERTILITY VITAMIN ISOLATED

Little Therapeutic Value

Prof. Evans announced yesterday, before the American Chemical Society, that he had isolated the fertility vitamin E and that he expected to produce it in commercial quantities within three months.

Mr. Mark L. Mitchell, lecturer in biochemistry and general physiology at the Adelaide University, said today that the fact that vitamin E had been produced in the pure state is not altogether surprising, since it is chemically the most stable of all the vitamins. But it is unexpected that it would occur in crystalline for, as hitherto it was regarded as a liquid at ordinary temperature.

Since this vitamin is required in very small amounts, is widely distributed in foods, and is quite stable, a dietary deficiency is most unlikely to occur.

Nevertheless, successful results have been reported by Scandinavian workers in the treatment of sterility in cows by injection of vitamin E concentrates. This suggests that there may be cases where this vitamin is not absorbed from the alimentary tract and so, even if it is present in abundance in the food, is unable to exert its effect.

Such cases are rare, however, and it is not likely that the new preparation will have general therapeutic value.

Medical School Jubilee Committee Appointed

The Registrar of the Adelaide University (Mr. F. Bardley) announced today that a general committee had been appointed to arrange the celebrations for the jubilee of the medical school at the University.

The following are the members of the committee: Professor Wheeler (vice-chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell), Profs. H. J. Wilkinson, J. B. Cleland, A. Kelly, Martin Mackeith, T. Harvey Johnston and Drs. A. M. Cudmore, C. de Crespigny, C. J. Hackett, K. S. Hetzel, F. S. Stone, H. M. Jay, A. D. Campbell, Helen Mayo, and Sir Henry Simpson Newland.

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BLACKS AND WHITES
Oct 1935
Stone Age And Modern Civilisation

"Knights of the Boomerang. Epilsodes of the Australian Spears among Native Tribes of Australia." By Herbert Basedow, M.A., M.D., Ph.D., B.Sc. (Sydney). The Bookery Press.

As Chief Medical Officer and Protector of Aborigines in the Northern Territory, later as Special Aborigines Commissioner, and also as leader of many Government and private geological and anthropological expeditions into Central and North Australia, the late Dr. Basedow had unique opportunities, of which he made full advantage, for studying the native tribes. In this generously illustrated volume, which has a scientific importance as well as deep interest for the general reader, he has contributed, as far as it is possible to complete before his lamented death, he gives his impressions regarding the aborigines generally, and describes their habits and customs, tribal ceremonies, fights and hunts, and the aborigines in their first contact with European civilisation.

A Perishing Race

Dr. Basedow calls the blacks "Nature's aristocrats," and says they "simple but unapproachable, humble but dignified." He is not blind to their moral defects, however, and he says, ungratefully. At the same time he credits them with kind-heartedness and generosity. Again and again he has had proof also of their fidelity and courage. It is distressing to read that several reports came to his notice "of natives having been flogged to death by irate white men who openly vouched that they had committed the crime 'to take the conceit out of the black fellow.'" At Blood's Creek the author fired a young aboriginal who had been locked in a cellar for several days without food or water "simply because he refused to be cowed by his white master." Apart from such individual acts of cruelty, which, we shall like to believe, have always been exceptional and not representative of the general attitude of the white colonists towards the interior towards the natives, is the much more serious matter of the persistent neglect of aboriginal interests by State and Federal Governments, to which Dr. Basedow comments with great severity. Even now he refuses to accept the theory that the extinction of the aborigines is inevitable, but nevertheless he is quite certain that this is bound to happen, and at no distant date, if the existing conditions are permitted to continue. And should the Australian black be forced to join his lost Tasmanian brother, the author impressively observes, "the guilt of this racial homicide" will be curs. While it is true that the avarice, selfishness and lustfulness of individual white men are largely responsible for the demoralisation of the aborigines, and the breakdown of their ancient tribal traditions, the authorities have never done anything to prevent it, and "in a government, human, and British way." According to Dr. Basedow, the construction of two railways into the interior has sown for the blacks "a harvest of sorrow, misery, and death." These evils the extension of motor transport and aviation has in various ways aggravated. The official gazetting of thousands of square miles of country as aboriginal reserves affords only nominal protection to a dying race, for the areas thus proclaimed are being daily invaded by unauthorised bands of prospectors. Easier fate seems to be the principle that governs the whole situation at present, as unhappily it always has done in the past.

Need Of Aboriginal Reserves

This book should help to awaken the conscience of the community and compel Australian Governments to take steps before it is too late to save the aboriginal remnant. The claims of humanity take precedence, but ethnological science, too, is deeply concerned in the preservation of the interesting survivals from the stone age in our island-continent. Dr. Basedow expresses regret that no other investigator has see again what he describes—the way of life of the Stone Age Australians, the civilisation have been accustomed to live, their food habits, and hunting expeditions, the rites of initiation of males and females on approaching maturity, the regulation of sexual relations by totemic affinities and tribal subdivisions, the funeral ceremonies and tribal burials, and the occasional eating of human flesh in order, not to satisfy hunger, but to acquire the virtues of the deceased. There are, however, still some tribes in the north-west of Australia living close to Nature and retaining their old customs with, as yet, little change. The tribes which Dr. Basedow considers the worst-off in Australia are the Great Victoria Desert natives in the Western State. These aborigines live under almost perennial drought conditions, short of water and with the meanest share of foodstuffs. The larger marsupials and birds are rarely or never in this arid country, and dry vegetable growth is of the scantiest description; and the usual fare of the natives consists of acacia seeds and white ants, supplemented to a limited extent by small marsupials, reptiles, roots, and grubs. To such desperate straits, it would seem, all the wild tribes that remain must gradually be reduced as the advance of civilisation continues to destroy their hunting grounds and means of existence, unless indeed, the aboriginal reserves are not merely proclaimed, but are effectively maintained and protected.

Programmes From 5CL-CK

The series of talks in connection with the jubilee of the Adelaide University medical school, will be continued next week. Speakers will indicate the changes in different aspects of medicine during the past 50 years. On Monday, over 5CK, "A Surgeon" will speak on "Fifty years progress in surgery." On Wednesday, over 5CL, "A Medical Practitioner" will discourse on "Fifty years of medical practice in South Australia."

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FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR FISHERIES

Investigation To Cost £80,000

RESEARCH COUNCIL'S OBJECTS

Tobacco Diseases And Soil Surveys Discussed

Matters of Australia-wide importance, particularly in regard to the fishing industry and tobacco culture, were discussed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, which met at the University of Adelaide yesterday. Attention was given principally to ascertaining whether Australia could afford greater supplies of chrysophidio fish, and the efforts to evolve a cure for blue mould in tobacco plants. The full council was presided over by Sir George Julius.

It was reported that information had been received from the Minister in charge of Fisheries (Senator McLean) that the Federal Cabinet had decided that fishery investigations were to be placed under the control of the council. The Commonwealth Government had provided £80,000 this year, and £15,000 for each of the subsequent four years, for the purpose of developing the fisheries. Of this sum, expenditure of the £20,000 was to be spent in obtaining a fisheries vessel for the purpose of utilising research work now used in other countries for the capture of surface-swimming fish. The secretary of the council (Mr. G. Lightfoot) said after the meeting yesterday that plans had been obtained from Canada of an approved type of vessel for that purpose, and enquiries were now being made to ascertain the approximate cost of one of one in Australia. It would be about 90 feet long, be equipped with a Diesel engine, and special apparatus for handling the types of nets necessary for the work. The main object was to discover whether there existed in Australia adequate supplies of surface-swimming, or pelagic fish, such as herrings and mackerel, which formed an important food supply in other countries.

At the same time, steps would be taken to institute certain scientific research work—firstly in regard to the preservation of fish by such methods as quick-freezing, canning, smoking and curing, and the utilisation of non-edible fish for the manufacture of fish meal, a fertiliser used largely in other countries. Some of the work would be in charge of Dr. J. R. Vickery, the chemist in charge of the Council's section of food preservation.

In addition, it was decided that the marine biological work would be developed in connection with the habits and life history of fish. The Council would be asked to recommend to Prof. W. J. Dakin, of the University of Sydney, and already the Council, in co-operation with the Adelaide University, has established the nucleus of a marine biological station on the South Head of Port Jackson.

It was possible, said Mr. Lightfoot, that the Council would take some work in regard to the cultivation of Murray cod. In other countries it had been found that a fresh water fish could be hatched, an instance being the trout.

Problems Of Tobacco Growers

Regarding the development of the tobacco industry, Mr. Lightfoot said that the Commonwealth Government had made available a grant of £20,000 for a period of five years for this purpose. Arrangements had been made for certain work to be undertaken by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and other work by the State Departments of Agriculture. The work would be carried out under three headings—the investigation of diseases affecting tobacco plants, the finding of disease-resisting varieties, and the question of aroma. In a report on this subject, Mr. David Rivett said that by far the most serious disease affecting tobacco culture in Australia was blue mould, which had proved a great disability to growers in many parts of the Commonwealth. Arrangements had been made for large scale tests with some leading tobacco growers at Eurobin, Victoria, and if they proved the experiments so far carried out, one of the greatest disabilities to the industry in Australia would be removed. The report added