News 29.8.35

VARSITY PROGRAMME FULL OF INTEREST

2 AUG 1935

Guide to Conversazione

The guide to the conversazione will be held at the University tomorrow and Saturday in connection with the jubilee celebrations of the medical school, has been issued. It contains two interesting maps, one of the University as it was in 1885, with only two buildings, and the other of the University today, showing where the different buildings and exhibits may be found.

In the "Directions to Visitors" on the front cover, it is pointed out that it will not be possible to visit all the departments in the exhibition in one session, and that visitors should therefore select from the programme the items in which they are specially interested and plan their visit accordingly.

Students will act as stewards, and will be pleased to give information and to direct visitors to any part of the University grounds. Motor cars may be parked on the parking area in the grounds, from either the North terrace or Victoria Drive entrance.

Besides a comprehensive guide to exhibits and a brief history of each of the branches of medicine represented, the booklet contains photographs of the first graduates in medicine in the Adelaide University (1888), the teaching staff in 1890, and the present teaching staff and students.

adv 30.8.35

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS

30 AUG 1935

Volunteers, If Necessary, Says Attorney-General

An indication that, if necessary, the Government would consider calling for volunteers from among the medical profession to relieve any temporary shortage of house surgeons at the Adelaide Hospital, even in the case of a vacancy temporarily by the Attorney-General (Mr. Jeffries).

"The Government is concerned at the extra work placed on house surgeons at the Adelaide Hospital through the sickness of one doctor and the departure of others, and I am sure that everything possible will be done to assist the house doctors," said the Attorney-General (Mr. Jeffries) in the Assembly yesterday.

Mr. Dunnage (Ind.) drew the attention of the Minister to the report in The Advertiser" yesterday, which stated that on Thursday, one of the house surgeons, was seriously ill with pneumonia, and that Dr. Stewart, a young New Zealand medical doctor, who had resigned from the staff recently, would leave at the end of the week for England, as a result the number of house surgeons available was now reduced to 11, five below the minimum number regarded as necessary.

Mr. Robinson said Dr. Day was the surgeon he had interviewed before bringing the matter up in the House last week. Dr. Day was then in a state of collapse, but would not report his illness, because he knew that if he had to give up his work would be thrown on other doctors. In view of the serious position caused at the hospital through the shortage of doctors, Mr. Robinson asked if the Government would consider calling for volunteers from the city and suburban practitioners to assist the hospital.

Mr. Jeffries said the Government was grateful to Dr. Robinson for his interest in the matter. The Government was concerned at the sickness of Dr. Day and the extra work placed on the other house surgeons. He would bring the matter before the Acting Premier (Mr. Hawker), and he was sure that everything possible would be done, perhaps even to the extent of calling for volunteers.

Appointments Confirmed

The appointments of Drs. J. M. Peeler, F. F. Heddle, and F. Flaherty as resident medical officers at the Adelaide Hospital, were confirmed by Executive Council yesterday.

All of these doctors have been on duty at the hospital for some time, but their appointments yesterday do not actually relieve the existing shortage.

Following the resignation of Mr. J. A. Maitland, who will enter the firm of Elder, Smith & Company, Mr. O. C. Isaachsen was appointed yesterday as associate to the Acting Chief Justice (Mr. Justice Angas Parsons). Mr. C. T. Woodforde was appointed as associate to Mr. Acting Justice Reed, the position at present held by Mr. Isaachsen. These appointments will take effect as from Monday.

WONDERS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE

Sept 30/35

University As Public Showroom Tonight

FILMING HEART THROBS

Parts of the University will become a showroom tonight, and professors, teachers, and students will take on the roles of demonstrators, when the exhibition in connection with the jubilee celebration of the Medical School will be opened.

The showroom will contain features to attract all classes. Housewives will see food exhibits and the latest kitchen equipment; mothers—babies, and old and new ways of rearing them; thatchers—machines; the manufacturing industry—sturdy youths—apparatus and experiments of many varieties; motorists—models of the human skeleton and specimens dealing with life, health and sickness. In brief, it will be a display of modern wonders, without even the fee of a circus sideshow!

The aim of the exhibition is to show the progress which has been achieved in medicine in the past 50 years, and to contrast the practices of to-day with those in vogue when the school began. The exhibition will be staged in several of the University buildings, and a guide book, which will be supplied to each visitor, will describe both the locality and the nature of the exhibits.

Many devices have been utilised to make the exhibits interesting and intelligible to all visitors. For example, instead of informing a housewife by a mass of confusing figures of the amount of calories in certain foods contained in certain foods contain, the school has adopted the far more graphic method of showing the actual foods, and also in the plates of meat, heaps of lettuce leaves and slices of bread the housewife may see the form and the adequate nutrition is obtainable, and the relative values of ham, peaches, milk, dried fruit and a dozen other foods.

Contrast With Old Types

Another method of demonstration will be that with the X-ray experimenting. Many will be surprised to see that the quantity of one digesting acid known as pepsin, a normal product, ascends a tube to a height of about three feet, and that, according to a large body of gaily coloured fluid, along a small bucketful of this juice is used by one person every 24 hours. Unfortunately for waste reducers, most of this is re-absorbed.

But food will form only a small section of the many fascinating exhibits. Including perhaps to the scientifically-minded will be the machines and other appliances of modern medical science, made to seem more wonderful by contrast with older types.

One of the most fascinating exhibits will be X-ray apparatus. One is a sliding table for X-ray examinations, adjustable so that a patient may be inspected from all angles, even upright. This was built by Mr. Dr. A. E. Hayward, a man who was trained at the University. With this machine, which will soon be installed in the Adelaide Hospital, the patient is examined by means of a screen, the X-ray tube being under the table. Other X-ray photographs are taken. An interesting contrast will be provided between a photograph of light, taken by exposing a photograph to be taken in one-thirtieth of a second, and an older type, in the fields of the Royal Show, by the late Dr. A. E. J. Russell, which is much slower in action and clumsier in construction.

Mr. Both has also perfected an electro-cardiograph, which records the movements of the heart and shows any variations from normal. Through the adaptation of modern wireless appliances, this machine is of portable construction, weighing 37 lb., whereas another to be shown is almost as large as a sideboard. The most modern feature of Mr. Both's machine is that it enables a diagram showing the heart beats to be picked up over the radio as well. The operator will invite visitors to be linked up with the apparatus and have their heartbeats recorded.

Heart Kept Beating

Another experiment by students will show how a heart may be kept beating by artificial injections while entirely isolated from the body. As a trial, the students kept the heart of a stumpy-tailed lizard, which had been killed, beating for two days.

Another machine, which was used with success at the Children's Hospital recently, and will be loaned by that institution, is a respirator. This machine, by increasing the supply of pure air, stimulates natural breathing by a patient.

Who would have suspected that the medical superintendent of the Adelaide Hospital (Dr. Sleeman) was an artist of considerable ability? This is one of the facts which will be revealed by the historical and literature section. Etchings is a hobby with Dr. Sleeman, and three examples of his work are included in this section.

Public health will be the subject of a separate section, and here visitors may see gas and electric equipment, sound-proof rooms, and posters urging the observance of precautions to ensure health. Of particular interest to those concerned with local government will be an exhibit of activities of local boards of health and steps taken to eradicate pests and combat disease.

Medicine, surgery, chemistry and anatomy are all in the headings under which a multitude of exhibits will be shown, and films will be screened in different parts further to illustrate the work.

DEBATE FINAL WON BY MELBOURNE

Personality Survives Civilisation

HUMOROUS SALLIES

Melbourne University's youthful debaters—"the three wise men from the east" their opponents graciously called them—last night at the University Refectory successfully defended Modern Civilisation, and so won the final of the inter-University debating contests.

The task of convincing the adjudicators that "Modern Civilisation Destroys Personality" was undertaken by the Western Australian debating team. The adjudicators, Mr. M. R. G. Brierley, Mr. B. Griff, and the Rev. J. H. Crossley, decided unanimously in favor of Victoria—as it seemed obvious they must.

It was an extremely good humored debate. It could not have been otherwise, after the opening remarks of the Acting Chief Justice (Mr. Justice Angas Parsons), who presided. "I don't know I was to preside at a murder trial," he said—and that gave the cue for the debaters to make the "destroys" in the title of their subject "kills."

The Victorian team—Messrs. K. T. Kelly (leader), B. A. Santamaria, and R. W. W. Wilmot—scored heavily in the humorous exchanges of the subject. The audience liked their quips and sallies, and even the Western Australian team joined in the merriment.

Here are some of the Victorians' verbal pranks:—

'Every debater is sometimes an inspired debater.

'Mr. Clarkson (of the Western Australian team) is the shade of Noel Coward, uttering epigrams in a very bad dose of 20th century blues."

'Mr. Green (leader of the Western Australian team) is a member of the W.A. Suicide Club. The only reason why he is alive is that he has not found the right weapon yet.

'From the corset of grandmother's day—a cross between a straight jacket and a suit of armor—Modern Civilisation has attained today a bathing costume that allows the greatest possible display of personality."

'To deny that leisure time develops our personality is to admit that we are but tadpoles—human tadpoles in a human pond.' (Applause.)

Weight Of Argument

The Western Australians—Messrs. V. St. L. Green and G. D. Clarkson and Miss L. Tangney—stuck to their task fervently, and Mr. Green made a brilliant summing up speech that pierced what holes there were in the Victorians' armor. But the weight of argument was on the Melbourne men's side—modern civilisation as they saw it and heard it from the rostrum—was over in the way of cultural and material advantages than had the centuries that have gone before, and triumphantly survived any attempts at its destruction.

As Mr. Kelly, a volatile little long-haired youth, with frequent smile, pointed out, personality needs leisure, capacity to develop the intellect and the soul of an individual, and human activities today are so much that they give him plenty of opportunity for such development.

"The most wretched person in the world today, Mr. Kelly said—even the man on the dole and with no hope of work—had a far better time, had far more freedom of expression, and much more chance of individualism than had the downtrodden poorer classes of the past. And he answered Mr. Green's argument that science and religion were inimical by saying that they were two separate spheres and could not come in contact and conflict with one another any more than a whale could come in contact with an aeroplane. "But, of course, I am not including Hot Gospellers and Popular Scientists in my argument" said Mr. Kelly.

The Rights Of The Individual

The chief point that Mr. Green made when he opened the debate was that modern civilisation did not allow an individual to be regarded as an end in end for himself. Even in those where science was opposed to the religion of it, he asserted. Science regarded a person as one tiny unit in the scale of creation—and left it at that. So when was your personality in such a state of affairs? Utterly destroyed, of course.

His challenges were repeated and enlarged on by Mr. Clarkson, the youngster of the Western Australian team, and Miss Tangney, who is to be a candidate at the next Western Australian election.

Menace Of Standardisation

Earnestly, in calm measured delivery, "the gentle lady from the West and her more gentle companion," as Mr. Kelly referred to them, set out their abhorrence of the customs and the amenities of the modern era. They deplored, one pronounced, the blaring, blatant radio, the power of the press, the narcotic influence of the cinema, the unnerving insistence of advertisements, the ruthlessness of slogans, the menace of standardisation in education, and thought all these, they argued, made personality a sorry wraith.

But Mr. Santamaria's ardor and Puckish humor and Mr. Wilmot's studied eloquence turned these modern influences into something less devastating than the Western Australians branded them, and lauded them as civilisation's inventions that developed personality as far as it could go. Sit back and puffed cigarettes after they had had their say, they knew, and the audience guessed, what the adjudicators would decide.

But it was a bright debate—a fitting prologue to a week's debating by teams from six Australian Universities in which our young men showed a good account in the important world affairs of today.

Meeting Of Council Today

A council meeting of the debaters and Australian team has been called. Messrs. V. St. Green and G. D. Clark son will return to Perth by the East-West express, and Miss D. Tangney will join the express for Melbourne where she will attend the biennial conference of the Australian Federation of University Women.

Debaters from the Melbourne Sydney, Queensland, and Tasmanian Universities will return tomorrow.

News 30.8.35

GOVERNMENT BLAMED

AUG 1935

Sir—May I, as one who has seen the life of the house surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital, state my belief that the only solution of the present difficulty, and the only solution of the problem is an increase in the salaries of the house surgeons. Does the Government imagine that even if young doctors can be induced to come here from England by payment of their passage, they will stay any length of time in positions vacated by our best men?

I consider that young doctors are not under any moral obligation to Governments institutions such as the University or Adelaide Hospital, since not only do we pay heavy taxes for hospital fees and possibly do enough work at the hospital to justify our presence there, but our parents pay taxes probably above those of the average taxpayer, which help towards the upkeep of these institutions apart from hospital fees.

I cannot understand why the Government, which spends hundreds of thousands of pounds on public works of no great value to the community or individual, begrudges one or two thousand a year extra to men who are not only earning it, but doing a work which demands humanity and unselfishness above any other.

Adelaide. A STUDENT.