

"Is it a fact that you have decided to withdraw from the headmastership?" asked the pressman.

"Yes," replied Canon Girdlestone. "For some time I have been discussing the matter with the council of the college. But I do not want people to think that I am leaving in three months, or even at the end of the year."

"Then your future movements are uncertain at present?"

"Yes. I am not going to make a move until the council has succeeded in finding a suitable successor."

"A clergyman, I presume?"

"Quite so. One of the articles reads that the head master of the college must be a clergyman. My council will therefore probably seek applications from men both in Australia and England. Of course, it may take 12 months before an appointment is made."

"And I suppose you will wait until a decision is arrived at by the council?"

"Yes, I will remain on here indefinitely, until my successor arrives. I am not going away to any other work."

"And then will you visit the scenes of your early days?"

No, I do not think I will go to England. I have been at St. Peter's for 22 years, and I think a head master, especially in Australia, wants to be young, and able to do a large amount himself. It means that as one gets older, it is harder to keep in touch with the younger generation, and I have felt that perhaps I am not as much in touch with the boys as I used to be."

"A large number of boys have passed through your hands, have they not?" asked the reporter.

"Yes," replied Canon Girdlestone, "from 120 to 130 scholars every new year."

"A noticeable feature about St. Peter's College," remarked the pressman, "is the prevalence of a fine manly tone and bearing, and I should think it ranks well up to the standard of the English schools."

"Well, I might say that I have a son at the college," said the head, "and I do not wish to send him to England."

—Australians for Pluck.—

Canon Girdlestone thinks the Australian soldier has shown remarkable doggedness and pluck in the present war.

After having wished the Canon good-bye, the reporter found at the main entrance a motor car loaded with parcels for "our boys"—and "their boys," too, for a wonderful brotherhood exists in the colleges. These contained dainties which had been prepared for transmission to Egypt by Mesdames Girdlestone and Wigg, as tokens of esteem for Old Blues in the fighting line.

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WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL NOTES

(By Victor E. Kroemer.)

The Value of Theoretical Knowledge.

The following interesting letter was received by the president of the Workers' Educational Association (Mr. Ryan, M.P.) from a miner at North Yelta recently:—
"I was present at the institute hall, Moonta, when you so ably dealt with education in the address on 'The cunning hand; the cultured brain.' . . . One part of your lecture not thoroughly clear to me was the methods and procedure of the Workers' Educational Association. This being, in a large part, a mining community, we should expect here a class dealing with theoretical mining. Do I understand that workers of all ages would receive tuition at the classes inaugurated by the association? A few years ago I found that I had spare time in the evenings—I haven't as much now—and being a miner I was interested in the structure and formation of the earth. I began to study at home, and studied at the School of Mines the science of mining geology, a class being formed for tuition in that subject. Although we started with a fair class, I was the only one that went through with it, and after two and a half years obtained certificates from the Adelaide and Moonta Schools of Mines. It is not likely to be much use to me, but is no trouble to carry about, except that I can write articles on the subject occasionally. I have written two, which were immediately accepted by a mining journal, for which I received my own price. They were—1. 'Dealing with Unique Mining Occurrences at Moonta Mines.' 2. 'The Geology of the Ore Deposits at Moonta Mines.' My field of vision and examination, of course, is, owing to circumstances, rather cramped, but I still study the science, and would go deeper were classes formed, and the study extended to this centre."

The Importance of the W.E.A.

The Workers' Educational Association stands for the education of all adult workers, male and female. Any one more than 16 years of age may become a member of the W.E.A. Moreover, it seeks to create a highway of education from the cradle to the university, along which the whole nation may walk towards greater enlightenment. Its specific function is to co-ordinate all methods of education and educational and social reform. It advocates a wider dissemination of knowledge, and the bringing of the university to the people wherever the people cannot go to the university. Although the financial difficulties in its way are now greater than prior to the war, the need for the W.E.A. methods of education are infinitely greater than they were before the European conflict broke out. The great problem of the future will be to have efficient workmen, more efficient than they have ever been before, owing to decreased numbers and larger responsibilities. This can only be accomplished by a greater diffusion of knowledge, and the inculcation of a new spirit of brotherhood that will unite the nation in a great forward movement. The employer who tries to grind the last ounce of plodding labor out of his workmen is in reality reducing their efficiency by dulling their intellect, and the worker whose mind is filled with dark thoughts about capitalistic exploitation is making himself an inefficient workman. Both these motives

must be swept away and replaced by a new spirit of harmony, and this can best be accomplished by meeting on the common ground of a great educational movement like the Workers' Educational Association, and providing facilities for greater theoretical and practical education. The miner could study geology, the builder architecture, the printer literature, and so on, from knowledge will grow enthusiasm, from enthusiasm will come high spirits and greater physical health and efficiency, and from greater efficiency will come prosperity.

The Waste of Inefficiency.

Having studied workmen in many lands I have sometimes been appalled at the waste that goes on in workshops owing to inefficient methods, lack of knowledge, and the lack of unity between workers and employers. In one large business house in London I remember—in one department of which more than 100 men were employed—an enormous sum of money could have been saved the firm if the business had been keyed up to a different note. But there was a jarring note, so infinitesimal, apparently, that the employers, who were responsible for it, were, I believe, unaware that it existed. By the time this jarring note had spread downward from heads to sub-heads and on to the foreman, and so on, it had reached rather large dimensions, until by the time it had got to the rank and file it manifested itself in such expressions (on being judiciously sounded to get at the weak spots), as, "What's the use of trying to understand the work better, so-and-so gets all the advantages." "If you work hard and efficiently, and get the job done before time, you get sent home, and lose so many hours pay." And so on. Time and material were wasted because the men were driven and not led; because the spirit was absent that should have welded that business into a happy family of efficient people working together for the benefit of all. The workmen did not feel in the humor to study the theoretical side of their business in their spare time; they seldom enquired what other firms did in the same difficulties that they encountered; they worked with a certain amount of out-of-date material, and without all the necessary facilities for doing the best work, and so a large amount of time was wasted in "pottering round" instead of getting at things and getting them done.

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SHORTENING OF CURRICULUM.

Melbourne, August 13.

At a special meeting of the University Senate last night the following temporary regulation was adopted:—"Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any statute or regulation, the curriculum for the degrees of bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery may during the continuance of the war between the United Kingdom and Germany be modified and reduced in length from five calendar years to not less than four calendar years and one term, subject to directions by the council; this temporary regulation shall be administered by the faculty of medicine at its discretion; this temporary regulation shall remain in force until such date or dates as the council after report from the faculty of medicine may appoint for its repeal."

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SERGEANT J. L. GORDON.

DEATH AT THE FRONT.

The news reached Adelaide on Thursday morning that Sergeant J. Leslie Gordon, the well-known Adelaide solicitor, had been killed in action on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and in consequence of this the Civil Court, over which his Honor Mr. Justice Gordon was to have presided, did not sit. Mr. Gordon, who was only 31 years of age, was the eldest son of the late Mr. James Gordon, who for many years occupied the position of S.M. in Adelaide, and was the nephew of Sir John Gordon. He had a distinguished career at St. Peter's College