(95) Adv. 19.4.26

A DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST.

DR. HICKS ARRIVES IN ADELAIDE.

Dr. Cedric Stanton Hicks, who has been appointed to the Marks lectureship in applied physiology and the Sheridan Research Fellowship in medicine at the University of Adelaide, arrived by the R.M.S. Mooltan on Saturday. He brought with him a little number of small animals, mostly rodents, which had engaged the close attention of the scientist on the way out from England, for some of them formed a special study of cancer animals, presented to the Adelaide University by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and the others were obtained by Professor Hicks for the continuance of his research work in Australia. Dr. Hicks and Mrs. Hicks were met at the Port Adelaide by representatives of the University, and were soon on their way to a picturesque bungalow overlooking the city and environs on the side of the hills at Beaumont, where Mrs. Hicks, senior, placed over the door a "welcome home" sign, prepared to be seen by his wife. Although the professor is a native of New Zealand (as is also Mrs. Hicks), and has been previously resided in Adelaide, he was soon comfortably at home in the garden among the flowers.

A "Live Wire."

The doctor is an alert, observant young man, who has already gained distinction in the educational and scientific world, and is ever ready to impart his knowledge to others. He readily answers questions and is ready for the most entertaining conversation, and a peculiarly pleasing yet impressive feature is the asking questions while he is answering others. That he has youth, vigor, education, experience, ambition, and ability is demonstrated in a pronounced way, and the opinion formed by Sir Ambrson Marten, a prominent judge, of his ability to handle the opportunities of Dr. Hicks on the Moolan, will no doubt be endorsed by those whose fortune it will be to come into contact with him. Sir Ambrson stated on Saturday that he was much impressed by Dr. Hicks, who was a "live" and should have a big future in the educational, and scientific world. A list of the scholastic and scientific attainments enjoyed by Dr. Hicks, who is only 34 years of age, was published in "The Advertiser" on Saturday. Quite recently, in addition to being the holder of degrees in chemistry and medicine, and distinctions for research work, Dr. Hicks was made Doctor of Philosophy at Cambridge, a title of which he is justly proud.

Inducement to Remain.

"Just before I left," he said, "I was offered a special inducement to remain at Cambridge, but I had decided to come to Australia, a nation in the making, and I declined the offer, which I regarded as a great compliment from Cambridge." Dr. Hicks said he had seen the laboratories in the Adelaide University, and he had seen many others, but he had not seen any better than the local one. Others had spoken of Adelaide as a backwater, perhaps, but the Adelaide institution had evidently been constructed with utility, economy, and the convenience and comfort of the staff and students as the primary considerations, and it should be all the more successful on that account. Referring to Australian students and educationists abroad, he mentioned that Mr. A. B. Anderson, of Adelaide, was doing brilliant work at the University of Cambridge, as was also Mr. Mark Mitchell (son of the Chancellor of the Adelaide University), who was working at Christ's College, Cambridge. The latter had presented Dr. Hicks with a valuable modern instrument, for use in his work, namely, measuring the structure of molecules. As far as is known, there are only three of these instruments in the world. It took one lecture to make that which was presented to the doctor, and he has brought it to Adelaide to be used in connection with his work at the University.

European Affairs.

Dr. Hicks has visited European countries during the last few years, and is able to make interesting comparisons of the various nations. He said on Saturday that a very outstanding impression was made on the extraordinarily great admiration for the Motherland. He thought this admiration, the public life, the experimental institutions of the Mother Country. He had noticed this on the Continent specially and thought it was a very great thing that counted. The quality of the British statesmen and leaders had earned the admiration of the Continental people.

Last year Dr. Hicks spent some time in Germany. He said there was to-day no bitterness about the German people, and although hard pressed in many directions, they were presenting the best face possible under the circumstances. They were bound to pull through, but there was no prospect of a return to the old order of things for two days. The people would not have it, he said.

Unhappy Austria.

Austria's unhappy plight had enlisted the sympathy of the doctor, who said "Vienna alone of all capital cities where one-third of the people were unemployed and lived on the others. The war and its results had left Austria out of the most valuable territorial possessions, and had left its people in an unfortunate position. Germany had economic barriers to contend with and would right herself, but for Austria there was a gloomy outlook. Dr. Hicks said the Austrian people had in the way in which the educational system of Germany had been revolutionised, particularly in the public school system. They were adopting modern liberal methods, and were no longer deluded by old traditions, which were cast aside. The basis of disciplinary routine education had been changed. As an illustration of the changes he said he had met wandering parties of school children with their teachers travelling in parts of Germany to secure education which could not otherwise have been gained. On one occasion he and Mrs. Hicks had met such a party at Bonn. These children had come from Westphalia, and at the time were standing near the statue of a well-known composer of patriotic songs, and were looking admiringly on the Rhine. In conversation with the teacher, Dr. Hicks found that he had visited the Wembley Exhibition in London. When the teacher discovered and told the children that Dr. Hicks and his wife were New Zealanders, the whole party were greatly interested. The doctor talked to them in their own language.

Germany, in the opinion of Dr. Hicks, was recovering from a potential weakness. The people generally cannot understand why the nations outside had formed such unfavorable opinions of the German folk during the war, an opinion which they say was not true of the people as a whole. Dr. Hicks said the Government, industrious, clean living, peace loving people could be secured for Australia's primary industries, and Germany, Sweden, Austria, and adjacent European countries, after the British migration field has been covered.

Adv. 20.4.26

EDUCATION AT CANBERRA.

A PROPOSED UNIVERSITY.

Melbourne, April 19.

It has been intimated that the Federal Government thinks the establishment of a university at Canberra would be very desirable on several grounds. Educational facilities would be required for the official and non-official community, destined to dwell in the future capital, and it has been also suggested that the institution could serve the purpose of the Commonwealth scholarships, tenable at the leading universities of State universities. In time, doubtless owing to the salubrious climate and pleasant surroundings, students from there might attract students from various parts of the Commonwealth. At present, however, the idea is in the stage of preliminary investigation.

A committee of university authorities, consisting of Sir Harry Wallace (Melbourne), Sir M. MacCallum (Sydney), and Mr. L. F. Giblin (Tasmania), has been appointed by the Federal Government, and requested to report upon the project, and also to recommend, after a personal inspection of the proposed site, whether Wallace has left for Sydney, and, in company with other members of the committee, will visit Canberra to-morrow.

REG. 21.4.26

TIMBER WORKERS' DISEASES.

For some time Professor Cleland, of the University of Adelaide, has been conducting experiments into the causes of vocational diseases among timber workers in the timber industry. The Health Department of Health has now also taken this matter up, at the request of the Federal council of the Timber Workers' Union, and the secretary of the branch of the union have been notified that the industrial hygiene division of the department is carrying out an enquiry into the effects of wood dust from Australian and imported timbers on the health of workers in the timber industries. The branch has been asked that if its members have any reasons for believing that wood dust has any effect on tanning, any ill effects to workmen in the industry, they should supply the department with particulars of the ill effects, the names of the timbers they believe are the cause of the diseases, also those of the establishments in which the ill effects are thought to have occurred. Arrangements would be made for the men, woods and establishments to be visited by officers of the department's industrial hygiene section. At a meeting of the union on Monday night, the secretary (Mr. J. E. Bunney) was instructed to supply the information, and to call the attention of the department to Professor Cleland's investigations, and that the latter was now making enquiries into the same matter.

News. 17.4.26

Lecturer on Engineering

Mr. Edward Vincent Clark, B.Sc., lecturer on electrical engineering at Adelaide University, has had a brilliant scholastic career interspersed with active soldiering.

Born at Adelaide 50 years ago, Mr. Clark, who is a son of the late Mr. M. Symonds Clark, acquired his early education at Prince Alfred College. He graduated in Bachelor of Science at the Adelaide University in 1898, and was awarded the Angas Engineering Scholarship which provided for further study in Britain.

Mr. E. V. Clark, B.Sc.

He spent seven years abroad and studied at the University College, London, under Professor (now Sir) Hudson Beare, a former South Australian. After serving at electrical power stations and with a firm of consulting engineers, he returned to Adelaide, where in 1906 and 1907 he acted as an instructor at the School of Mines. The following year he accepted the office of assistant-entrance and station superintendent of the Municipal Tramways Trust. In 1910 he was appointed to his position at Adelaide University.

Mr. Clark volunteered for active service in the Great War, and in 1916 left Australia as a lieutenant with the 15th Field Engineers. He saw service in France, where he had the misfortune to have both his legs broken. Rejoining his unit in September, 1918, he took part in the final attack on the Hindenburg line. Shortly afterward he was sent back to Britain with the honorary rank of captain to undertake administrative work in connection with the education scheme of the Australian Imperial Forces.

Mr. Clark has been prominent as chairman of the Adelaide division of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, is a foundation member of that body, which was established in 1920. He also a member of the South Australian Institute of Engineers, which was established in 1912, and which, in 1916 was incorporated with the present institution.

He married a daughter of the Rev. J. G. Raves and sister of Sir Lennon Raves. His hobby is tennis.

Adv. 21.4.26

PLANT LIFE IN ARID AUSTRALIA.

A large audience listened on Tuesday night to an interesting lecture on "Plant Life in Arid Australia" delivered by Professor Osborn, at a meeting held under the auspices of the Field Naturalists' Association at the Institute, North-terrace. The speaker was introduced by Mr. J. F. Bailey (president of the association).

Professor Osborn said he made no excuse for choosing such a subject particularly in "Arid Australia." Arid Australia, for the purpose of his lecture, for they could not draw their lines to the fact that South Australia was almost an arid State, an arid country was one which received under 10 inches of rain annually, and two-thirds of the area of South Australia was arid. North and east of the Murray, and from Port Augusta to the Western Australian border and right through to the Northern Territory, there was an arid climate and there had been a long rainfall of under 5 inches. With the assistance of an excellent assortment of lantern slides of the Director, a description of how plant communities developed. They were often senile, however, he said, by the increase of human beings. Over stocking was one of the practices which had had a detrimental effect on the growth of plant life. The speaker described the research work being carried out at the Koonamore Vera reserve, made possible through the generosity of Messrs. Hamilton and Wheeo.

News. 19.4.26

PUBLIC LIBRARY STARVED

Hampered in Research Work

REPLY TO PROF. HANCOCK

Referring a few days ago to the lack of books on history in the University of Adelaide and Public Library, Prof. W. K. Hancock, B.A., who occupies the Chair of History at the University, expressed disappointment at the absence of such volumes as contemporary sources, letters, memoirs, official records, such as despatches of ambassadors, and Parliamentary debates. University students, he asserted, were greatly handicapped by the lack of such books.

Mr. H. R. Purnell (librarian at the Adelaide Public Library) in replying, stated that while sympathy was due to Prof. Hancock on his misfortune in lack-hunting, it was as well to point out that he said nothing about a good many treasures of history that he must have been gratified to have found in the library.

"A list of many thousands might be compiled of books not in the Library that might be "up there," said Mr. Purnell, "and this not only in the history section, but in literature, science, technology, and in fact, in all departments of knowledge. The reason is not far to seek, seeing that the library has not funds enough to keep adequately up to date in current literature. And so the difficulty of obtaining older standard works, more and more, is not of print and scarce, progressively increasing.

"I think that when the professor has time to turn back the annual reports of the Melbourne and Adelaide libraries he will realise how his comparison bears out both his contention and what I am trying to show, namely, the Government grant to the Melbourne library varies, but in 1923 covered an expenditure of £4,949 for books.

"In that year the annual report of the Adelaide library contains the following statement: 'It is to be regretted that the inadequacy of the Government grant to provide books has been pointed out in each annual report of the library, despite its increasing use for research, and for reading of all kinds, and its contribution to the educational and material wealth of the State. Unless, with immediate effect, being starved for want of books.

"Prices of books have greatly increased, and consequently their purchase from the Government grant has practically ceased. The record year for reading has seen the lowest expenditure of books purchased for the past 20 years. For four years the library has had to rely for books on the income from the Morgan Thomas bequest. That endowment is a magnificent monument to the memory of Mr. Morgan Thomas, but without it the library could not have attained its present efficiency. But it is insufficient, and should be expended wholly to provide for the needs of the reading public of South Australia."

"The position remains practically unchanged. Last year (1924) the £425 sum of about £250 was available for books. Research work is hampered at every turn. The gap left by the Morgan Thomas bequest will be even more apparent later on than it is at present.

"The library committee has always welcomed suggestions from experts as to books needed and would like, of course, to try to meet Professor Hancock's and Prof. Hancock. But how can it be done where there are, so to speak, so many other wolves howling round the door and so little with which to placate them?"

Adv. 21.4.26

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN.

With a view to developing and fostering a taste for music in children, the Director of the Conservatorium (Dr. Harold Davies) has written to the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy) suggesting that something tangible in this way might be done in Adelaide. The effort is to be given by the South Australian Orchestra on June 6 at a matinee that would lend itself more to the entertainment of the nature, and Dr. Davies has suggested that if possible it should be repeated in the Elder Hall on a later date for the benefit of senior school children and teachers only. The programme, under these circumstances, would be given in a 40 minutes' talk on music development by the Director of the Conservatorium, and then the various instruments used in the orchestra would be described by Mr. W. Foote, each player contributing a short solo passage or half-dozen bars. Before each item on the programme Dr. Davies suggests there should be a brief introduction, even if this only consisted of some anecdote about the composer's life or the circumstances under which the piece in question was composed. These things would interest children's attention, and lead them to take a deeper interest in music, then any lecture on theory and history of music couched in a more formal way could do.