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City Coroner

Dr. W. Ramsay Smith, B.Sc., M.D., Adelaide's City Coroner and chairman of the Central Board of Health, is one of South Australia's notable Scotsmen—learned and versatile. He is a native of Aberdeenshire, and is in his sixty-seventh year. It is thirty-seven years since he and Dr. Leith Napier (father of Mr. Justice Napier) were brought out by the Kingston Government to fill the two most important positions at the Adelaide Hospital. From country schools in Scotland, Dr. Ramsay Smith passed to Edinburgh University, and for thirteen years he was associated with that seat of learning as student, graduate, lecturer, examiner, and assistant professor.

At the University he distinguished himself in everything for which he entered. He holds the degrees of doctor of medicine, master of surgery, and doctor of bachelor of arts. Apparently nothing was too much for him to master. While pursuing his studies he chose for several reasons to make his own living, and he employed his time in teaching medicine, arts, science, and even music.

At the earliest age on record he was made a Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland in acknowledgment of his services to education. In continue the doctor had as pupils an Indian potentate studying medicine, a Russian nobleman studying natural science, and another who was being coached in mental philosophy.

When comparatively a young man Dr. Ramsay Smith published articles and reviews for "The Scotsman" and its evening edition "The Despatch" dealing with a variety of subjects, chiefly medical and literary. He took a keen interest in social problems in those years, and earned quite a reputation as a sanitary reformer. His versatility was shown by his authorship of a remarkable work published in London in 1918 entitled "Medical Jurisprudence from the Judicial Standpoint," which received high commendation from reviewers and has proved a full addition to the professional shelves of lawyers and medical men.

Rec. 9.4.26

UNIVERSITY DEBATING TEAM.

Australian Itinerary.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

The Imperial University debating team, comprising Messrs. Quinn (Magdalen, Ingham), T. P. McDowall (Edinburgh), A. H. E. Molson (Oxford), and Paul Reid (London) will arrive in Sydney from New Zealand on April 27. An itinerary for its Australian tour has been completed as follows:—April 28, debate in Sydney; April 29, debate or free; April 30, free or debate; May 1, leave for Brisbane; May 3 and 4, debates in Brisbane; May 5, leave for Sydney; May 7, debate in Sydney; May 8, leave for Melbourne; May 10, debate in Melbourne; May 11, leave for Hobart, via Launceston; May 13 and 14, debate in Hobart; May 17, leave for Melbourne, via Launceston; May 18 and 19, free or debate in Melbourne; May 20, debate; May 21, leave for Adelaide; May 24 and 25, debates in Adelaide; May 26, leave for Perth; June 1, 2, and 4, debate in Perth; June 7, depart for England on the Naldera.

Rec. 13.4.26

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM STRING QUARTET.

The members of the Elder Conservatorium string quartet have been approached from many quarters with a request to resume the series of three chamber music concerts at the Liberal Union Hall during the coming winter months. These concerts afford Adelaide music-lovers the opportunity of hearing concerted music under the most favorable conditions. It is therefore hoped that sufficient support will be offered by the public to enable the quartet to carry out the abovementioned plan. It is proposed to issue season tickets entitling two persons to attend each concert at one guinea. Application by intending subscribers should be made before April 20 to Mr. Charles Schilsky, Elder Conservatorium, Adelaide. It is significant of the achievements that the quartet have been engaged to give two concerts in Melbourne in July.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

A Prosperous Year.

At the session of the Workers' Educational Conference, to be held in the Institute Building, North terrace, tonight, the annual reports and balance sheet will be submitted.

In the report of the president (Mr. E. Cheary) and the Secretary (Mr. C. Duncan) it was stated—"Success organisation and co-operative effort are necessary to secure collective aims, education is necessary to make association pleasant and effective. From many standpoints the work of the past year has been more satisfactory than any previous year, which was a record one. Extensive advertising, more particularly at the beginning of the session, has been partly responsible for the increased interest and numbers of students joining classes. Tutorial classes commenced in numbers of the executive, the officers and the students have played a loyal part in helping forward the work of the association, for, after all, if the W.E.A. is to be a success it must fully for which it was designed, personal service will count most. There are 40 organisations affiliated, the number of which the following five of which are new—The Letter Carriers' Association, the Brewing Trades Union, Federated Coopers of Australia South Australian branch), Hairdressers' Employes' Federation, and Federated Storemen and Packers. The W.E.A. Club passes from strength to strength, the attendances at the weekly meetings during the year was 170. The fine spirit exhibited by the students is one feature of the success of the club has been great help to the association on the social side. The social side of the association, the lounge of the club meetings during the year, and in that way get to know each other. The Book section has become an important, although a subsidiary part of the association's work. Arrangements have been made with publishing firms in England to supply the W.E.A. ordinary price, and the Book section has been able to sell to the students at reduced prices and are supplied to the joint committee for the purchase of books for the use of classes at a price formerly charged. Sales have increased from £1 to £100 in the last year, and as the number of students having increased, the available rooms at the University for classes were not sufficient to meet the demand, we were able to continue all the classes at the University, and we wish to express our thanks to the Council of the University authorities for their courtesy and kindness in making it possible for the work of the association before in the University."

The report of the joint committee of tutorial classes stated that Mr. Ernest Bell and Mr. Blaggish was appointed tutor organiser for the association, and he commenced his duties locally during March. During the part session the committee arranged for new classes at Gawler, Port Pirie, Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo. A fortnightly class was conducted at Peterie (Port Pirie). The attendances at these classes met within the University during the year, four of which were new. In addition, eight field tutorial classes were held in the country, and two fortnightly ones. The attendances were very satisfactory, despite the weather of the winter months, which always is a hindrance to regularity of attendance. Nearly all classes have written essays during the year. The class libraries have been used extensively, and there has been considerable development in the use of the central library. The library is fortnightly speaking, and the work has been developed and improved in every direction." After detailing the scope of the various classes the report mentioned Professor Parison of enrolments and numbers of effective students, which showed that for the last two thirds and three-quarters of those who join the classes are enrolled for the full term, which are too large, for experience has shown that if a class contains more than 30 students, the attendance is generally speaking, not very efficient. An outstanding feature of the year's work was the growth of the social activities of the classes. About 170 students meet regularly on the last Saturday of the month at the Club. Mr. Bell spoke of the success of each performance of the Adelaide Repertory Theatre Club, and of the interest which it has shown in public speaking and singing classes closed their meetings with a successful social. Adelaide A members' club was started during the year, of the four or five outings, the attendances varied from 24 to 70. The club promises well both on the educational and social sides."

The receipts accounted for £6,012 11/, and expenditure £1,911 11/, leaving a credit balance of £101. That was less than the credit balance at the beginning of the year, which totalled £162.

Rec. 13.4.26

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA.

The South Australian Orchestra will inaugurate its season with a special concert in the Exhibition Building on Saturday May 15, when a Colonial Tuttor programme will be given in conjunction with the Adelaide Bach Society. The beautiful "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast" from the "Death of Minnehaha" will be sung by the Bach Society, with orchestral accompaniment, and conducted by Professor E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc. The South Australian Orchestra will play the Hiawatha ballet music, under the direction of Mr. W. H. Foote, A.R.C.M. A very cheerful music created an impression when it was rendered by the orchestra two years ago, and will prove more popular when heard in contrast to the vocal parts. The concert will be under vicereal patronage. His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Stonehaven) has intimated his intention of being present with His Excellency the Governor (Sir Tom Bridges), Lady Bridges, and suite. Applications for seats can be made by letter only addressed to the concert manager, care Acolian Company, Rundle street. Plan arrangements will be announced later.

"STRIKING A BALANCE."

Economics in Modern Education.

At the Institute Building, North terrace, on Wednesday evening, Mr. A. L. G. Mackay, M.A., delivered a lecture on "The place of economics in modern education" in connection with the sixth annual conference of the Workers' Educational Association. Mr. E. Cheary (President) occupied the chair.

Mr. MacKay said the aim of all true education was the upbuilding of character, which was described as the most striking of a balance described as the different forces which operated in the mind, and that those forces could be mobilised against the environment in the interests of the development of character. The subject, "Economics," should be an instrument capable of being welded in the interests of character building, and if it could not be so used then they would be justified in removing it from their educational scheme. The balance of the "striking" had been stated as three-fold, namely, the training of professional men, the making of knowledge, and the dissemination of culture. Before a university could give a "home" to any subject it should be satisfied that the subject could be used for that three-fold purpose. For that reason subjects such as shorthand, chiropody, and advertising could not find a welcome at Oxford and Cambridge. Economics lent itself to that purpose in every way. For nearly centuries it was the plaything of every political party, sect, and social and economic faction. There existed relics of that state of mind in phrases such as "capitalist economics," "working class economics," "scientific economics," and many others. Only very recently the universities of the world had realized that they must give a home to economics, and that result was due to the rapid development of a science remarkable for its accuracy, impartiality as regarded the search for truth, and for its cultural influence. The man in Australia most responsible for placing economics within the calm atmosphere of impartiality was Professor Pigou, not antecedent, the Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University. Economics was a subject which appealed great demands upon a student. Before adequate study could be embarked upon it required some knowledge of ancient history, mathematics, certain forms of science, psychology, and the classics. The proper study required all those, particularly philosophy, history, and mathematics. That broadly established basis enabled students of economics to understand the relative values, and the mobilization of economic energy with a cultural background sufficiently broad to prevent the development of a narrow or material outlook. The study of economics might properly be energy the development of character in knowledge of economics could grow along with his other knowledge in the stage of secondary education. Finally economics was a necessary form of study for the development of social conscience. No matter what form of society they lived in the fundamentals of economics remained the same, and its main use to modern society was the development of character in realms where materialism was likely to hold sway.

Adv. 9.4.26

WAS HORACE A GREEK?

To the Editor.

Sir—I wish sincerely to thank Mr. Newman for his letter. Courtesy demands that I should make some acknowledgment, but no sense is this letter to be considered an attempt to controversy. We are both seekers after truth, not alike at debate's tribunal. Truth, however, is a hard one to hunt, and well, and to reach her is often a wet and slippery business. Would I like to say "Mr. Newman:—This well looks unpleasantly deep; why may we not agree to differ? You have your big battalions on your side; I have only two-thirds of Dr. Ramsay Smith's tome corpore." But I know that Mr. Newman will refuse terms so pusillanimous, and therefore, vogue la galere! I take to the deep.

At the outset one may say that the question of Horace's racial make-up is beyond absolute proof. Yet there is cumulative evidence which points, at least to me, in the direction of his being a Greek, and not a Roman. When everything has been put against this view, I feel I still feel in my bones that I am right. Mr. Newman will not approve of this "osseous argument." It is, he may push me down the well, and I shall cry, "Quarter, Quarter!" but I reach the bottom, I am always feeling things in my bones (instans sencris, probably); for instance, I feel a Roman not my, I may face the button of Mr. Newman's foil. I dare and face the bare steel of the Shakespearean Brutus, and Professor Sir Archibald Strong. So back to Dr. Smith I go, says "Horace's father was a freedman, possibly a Greek slave." In a footnote he adds frankly, "The foundation for the suggestion that the father was a Greek is merely (1) that he had been a slave and must have been a foreigner, and (2) that Horace at an early age was sufficiently fluent in Greek to write Greek verses." The passage upon which Dr. Gow rounds the second assertion (Sat. 1.10.31) deserves our attention. Horace has just referred to the township of Canusium describing it as bilingual, for, the inhabitants talked Bruttian and Greek. Even we remember that Canusium is distant only some twenty-five miles by "crowgull" (lovely word!) from Venusia, it is a stunning of conjecture to believe that Greek was spoken there also. At any rate if, as one tradition hints, the father was a sort of tow-rifter and auctioneer in the service of the town, we may suspect that command over both languages was one good reason for his holding the post.

But the descriptions of Horace's personal appearance tend to show decidedly that he was at least no Roman. He was short, and in his young days almost certainly black. Yet he was fair and dark and dark eyes, where a true Roman would have preferred blond hair and light eyes. Yet he was fair and dark in Calabria, which has a typical Mediterranean. If with this fact we combine birth in a (probably) Greek environments, and such knowledge of Greek as permitted him to write Greek verses in his boyhood, we may not unfairly call him a Greek origin.

There are, however, considerations of another kind which deserve to be borne in mind. The Roman character of Greek literature has something about it suggestive of patriotic bias. What Roman would have dared to say that "Greece took captive her untutored conqueror?" What Roman would have bidden his countrymen "Greeks, Greeks! model by day and night? And lastly there are my bones again! who but a Greek could have produced that "Greek delicate charm which delights every reader of the Odes? I like to think of his in Greek, and the inclination which exhypothesis he loved so well, because it was his own.

Mr. Newman makes an interesting point that if Horace was a Greek he would, when enemies were backbiting him for the son of an active, he would have made capital of his Greek origin. It is difficult to find a modern parallel. But, to take an entirely fanciful instance, if my enemies said of me, "Why, he was an ex-convict," I cannot imagine myself adding, by way of palliation, "No matter, my father was a gentleman." Horace, we may suppose, would not seek to remind either himself or others that his father was a slave again Romans usually defeated by Roman generals and that Italy swarmed with Greek slaves capable of claiming many decades of.

On the other hand, Horace does not always spare the rod to the Greek people. He uses the word graecari in the sense "to be effminate"; he associates "Greek hoops" with a certain softness in the upto-date Roman boy; but he did drink Greek wine, Greek sauce and all, and if that does not prove him a Greek I don't know how the thing may be done!

Mr. Newman's reference to Horace in the matter of his flight from Philippi is perfectly sound. My imp of mischief got loose, as it too often does. Horace did well to make light of his performance. It was wisdom to speak disparagingly of the whole affair, and to make light of it, lest he might at least speak disparagingly of himself. Of one thing I am sure: Horace was no coward. He was called a coward by a fallen Minister and refuses a post at Court possesses a type of courage which is not to be to be sneered at. Horace, once again, then, I thank Mr. Newman for initiating a discussion on such a topic, and I think him also for his introductory compliments which are not of the sort of babes are not always my portion.

P.S.—May I defend myself on a matter of good taste? I have been taken to task for speaking of women as "attractive animals." I did nothing of the sort. The world women do desire the man's attitude towards the fair sex; an attitude which, as I have fully pointed out, was not Roman. Such an attitude, expressed in such terms, might pass with the Freudians; but a classical man with warning enough in the fate of wicked Penthesus. However, I have expressed my affection for Horace, and, having done so, must, I suppose, take on my shoulder some of the obliqy which the modern woman will, not unnaturally, hurl at my sleek little post fresh from the sty of Epicurus.

H. DARNLEY NAYLOR.

University of Adelaide.

Adv. 9.4.26.

MORE POWER.

CHEAPER COST OF PRODUCTION.

Professor Chapman, of the Adelaide University, advocates the use of more power in Australian industry to cheapen the cost of production.

The Secondary Industries Commission met at Parliament House yesterday afternoon. There were present Messrs. F. J. Condon, M.P. (chairman), W. Marrow and T. Gugas E. A. Anthoney, E. C. Vardon, S. Whitford, and J. W. Harvey. Evidence was taken from two witnesses.

Professor Robert William Chapman, professor of engineering at the Adelaide University, said industry depended largely upon the power supplies available. Electricity was the principal power used here.