Reg 9-1-26

E.A. SUMMER SCHOOL.

...stralian Aborigine Discussed.

...lecture on "The Australian Aborigi... was delivered at the Workers' Edu...dional Association Summer School at ...unt Lofty, on Wednesday evening, by ... Ramsay Smith. Dealing first with ... anatomy of the race under discussion ... lecturer alluded to the discovery re...tly of the fossilized skeleton of a cave...eller at Cheddar, possessing the flat ...in bones which were supposed not to be ...ound at the present day, but which were, ...a matter of fact, common among the ...boriginals, as well as among an ancient New Zealand race. The great length be... low the knee, instead of being a ...mish, was in fact, a beauty to be fou... the Apollo Belvidere, to which a ...graph of a young native was favourably com...pared. One great authority had des...cribed the Australian native as the finest model of human proportions to be met with, with a head which might be compared with the antique bust of a philosopher, while, according to another authority, the aborigine seems to possess resemblance to every variety of race. The explanation of this was that given an isolated race, with a variety of climate and food supply, this would branch out into the different types; this occurred in almost all animals, and was known as the convergence of evolution.

Speaking of the place of origin of the black race, and its distribution, Dr. Ramsay Smith quoted the theory of the Director of Deep Sea Investigation for the German Government. This dealt with the geographical alteration of the earth and the possibility of a large continent having been previously joined up those we knew to-day. This much-discussed problem of how the aborigine got to Australia might be solved by saying that it was to the vanished continent we must look for the origin of human races. Therefore, it might be assumed that the aborigine got to Australia because there was nothing to hinder him, and as he had been described as being nearest to the primitive state, it was not impossible that he was the source of many, if not all, other peoples. Any people who had not learnt the art of civilization, if entirely cut off from others, would develop their own way of living and become perfectly adapted to their environment, and the food supply from animals, &c., exactly fitted the natives' requirements. He had been called primitive and criticised for the lack of progress as we understand it, but could he be expected to plough with a kangaroo or milk a wallaby? As it was he could live where a white man would starve. His resources and medicines were superior to those of the white man, by virtue of his capacity for making use of what was ready to his hand. The familiar contention of low intellectual development was disposed of by his skill in handling stock and horses as no white man could, and it was worth noting that that the champion sheep shearer of South Australia was a full-blooded native. The speaker, continuing, mentioned instances of beautiful carving he had seen, done on china clay, of the ability to play music at sight, and a trained observation in weather prophecy. In studying the native all theories of brain functioning and mental operations vanished. Brain capacity could not be definitely decided by the size and shape of the skull, and the civilized man knew as little of the possibilities of the mind of his uncivilized brother as he did of his own primitive savage instincts, which he believed had been overdone. The lecturer closed with the query as to whether there must be some essential difference between the strings of a Stradivarius in the hands of a genius and those of a banjo which had never been called to do more than mark the time to a semi-barbaric clog dance. In reply to questions, he expressed the opinion that the aboriginal race could be preserved if its members were kept away from white people. A vote of thanks was carried on the motion of Dr. A. C. Garnett, seconded by Professor Darnley Naylor.

The special study groups met for the last time on Thursday morning. Mr. A. L. G. McKay closed his series on the novel as an economic factor my comparing the works of Galsworthy on English problems with the novels of Sinclair Lewis depicting American conditions. Mr. E. G. Biaggini concluded the "History of the poor law" series, and the Rev. G. E. Hale's closing address on "Literary appreciation" compared poetry with science. The psychology group, under Dr. A. C. Garnett, continued their study of "The herd instinct" by discussing such problems as that of its effect as shown by the drift to cities and the significance of "the gang" and "the push" among boys. The summer school will continue until Saturday morning.

Mail 9-1-26

BIRTHDAYS NEXT WEEK

Prominent South Australians

(By "Felix")

Notable Scientist

Eighty-one years old and still deeply interested in his science, with his faculties apparently as keen as ever, is the remarkable attainment of Professor Walter Howchin, F.G.S., or rather now known as "Emeritus" Professor of Geology at the Adelaide University. Mr. Howchin, son of Rev. Richard Howchin, was born at Norwich, England, on January 12, 1845, and educated at the Academy at King's Lynn.

Though ordained to the Christian ministry—he was for years a minister of one of the Methodist denominations in South Australia before the union—Mr. Howchin was closely wedded to scientific research. Geology has been his lifelong study. At the early age of 23 he was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London.

For many years past South Australia has had no greater geological authority than the veteran, who is still keenly interested in the science. Only last year he wrote a highly valuable contribution on the geological formation of the Williamstown district. For something like 40 years he has edited the transactions and proceedings of the Royal Society of South Australia (of which he has been

PROFESSOR HOWCHIN

a fellow since 1883), a society that stands high in appreciation by the scientific world. From 1899 to 1904 he was lecturer on mineralogy at the South Australian School of Mines, and for some time he lectured on geology at the Gawler School of Mines. From 1902 he was lecturer on geology and palaeontology at the Adelaide University, and in 1918 he was appointed honorary professor, a position he held on the staff till December, 1920, when he resigned, with permission to retain the title of "Honorary Professor."

The Professor is the author of a great number of papers on his science, and his high position in the Australian scientific world has been attested by the honors that have come to him. The Professor will be remembered as the local secretary of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science for many years.

Adv 11-1-26

SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

An attractively-designed manual of information, in regard to the Elder Conservatorium, the Diploma of Associate in Music, Music Scholarships, and University Degrees in Music, has been issued by the University of Adelaide. The manual deals with the various phases of musical education, which should prove of great benefit to those contemplating a musical career. In it is incorporated full details of the various scholarships and prizes open for competition, methods of entry, fees payable, and the regulations and rules governing the courses of study in the various subjects.

News. 13-1-26

Drs. R. O. Fox and W. D. Walker have been appointed resident medical officers for interchange between the Adelaide Hospital and other institutions.

Dr. C. T. Turner has been selected as honorary assistant surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital, in place of Dr. J. Corbin, promoted.

Adv. 9-1-26

Judge Mitchell sat in the Insolvency Court yesterday for the first time since his title was altered from commissioner to judge of the court. He was congratulated on behalf of the bar by Mr. G. S. Reed, who said the new order would be a cause of satisfaction both to the profession and the public. The de-

Judge Mitchell.

signation would be more in keeping with the duties which his Honor discharged, and the jurisdiction which he exercised. He could assure the court of the continuing support of the bar. His Honor said he appreciated the congratulation, and thanked the bar for the manner in which they carried out their duties, and so assisted the court. He wished to assure them of the respect he had for the members of the profession.

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UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING BUILDING.

The new building being erected by the Government at a cost of £40,000 at the southern side of the Darling Building at the Adelaide University, which will be utilized by the engineering section of the University (under Professor W. Chapman, Professor of Engineering), and the Physics section (under Professor Kerr Grant, Professor of Physics) is expected to be ready for occupation in March. The building is of similar architectural lines to the Darling building, being constructed of brick, and containing spacious windows outlined in white and covered by a roof of red tiles. Every consideration has been given to the convenience of and comfortable working conditions for the students. Large windows supply light and ventilation, and modern accessories for experimental and instructional purposes are being installed. At present the builders are putting the finishing touches to the building.

Reg. 12-1-26

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

From The Register, Tuesday, January 11, 1876.

The first scholarship or medal that Australia has ever won at the London University has just been secured by an Adelaidean, Mr. Joseph C. Verco having taken his degree in the first division of M.B., London. He also was examined for honours, and secured for forensic medicine the first scholarship of £30 a year for two years and a gold medal; also for medicine a gold medal. Taking the total number of marks in the various subjects he was first on the list. Mr. Verco, who is a son of a well-known South Australian colonist, was educated first at Mr. J. L. Young's Adelaide Educational Institution, and afterwards at St. Peter's Collegiate School.—The Minister of Education proposes visiting Yorke's Peninsula in company with Mr. J. A. Hartley, the President of the Education Council, with a view of ascertaining the educational requirements of the district. Mr. Ward proposes not only to visit the towns of Kadina, Wallaroo, and Moonta, but he will go down to the southern portions of the peninsula, and gather from personal inspection what the wants of the various localities there are. He intends leaving about the end of the current week.

Adv. 13-1-26

TOMATO "WILT."

NO INVESTIGATIONS AT URRBRAE.

APPARATUS LACKING.

Contrary to general belief, no experiments concerning tomato "wilt" are being carried out at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, nor are such investigations possible owing to the lack of proper apparatus.

Mr. Geoffrey Samuel, plant pathologist at the Waite Institute of Agricultural Research, stated to a representative of "The Advertiser" on Tuesday morning that the cause of tomato "wilt" was at present unknown. Experiments in control which had been made in practically every State, involving spraying with many kinds of spray, had all given negative results. Bacteria caused plant diseases of a somewhat similar type, in which no causal agent was visible under the microscope. These diseases were known as mosaic and related diseases. In most of them it had been found that the infected juice of diseased plants, if injected into healthy plants, would reproduce and spread the disease. Frequently this infected juice had been proved to have been transmitted from plant to plant by insects. In some cases it was even necessary that the juice should pass through the body of the insects before it had the power of infecting healthy plants. Insects were, therefore, active disease carriers for this class of mosaic disease, the real cause of which was not yet known. All these facts had been worked out by certain inoculation experiments performed with plants which had been grown in insect-proof cages, and to which no insects had had access since they had passed the seedling stage. When certain insects, usually aphides, were allowed to feed first on mosaic diseased plants and later on healthy plants in the cages for one day, and were then removed, it had been found that the healthy plants soon developed the symptoms of the disease. Many of these diseases were now known to exist on potato, tobacco, cucumber, and other plants, and because of the absence of any visible cause or possibility of transmission of the disease by infective juice, they had received the name of virus diseases.

In certain respects, the "spotted wilt" affecting tomatoes suggested that it was virus disease. What was needed was proof of this, and, if it were true, the discovery of the insect or other agent which acted as a carrier. To do this, an insect-proof cage or glass house, in which plants could be reared with absolute certainty that no insect had been on them, was absolutely necessary. It was probably on account of the lack of such precautions that no definite results had been obtained from experiments with "spotted wilt."

History of the Disease.

"Spotted wilt" made its first appearance near Melbourne about 1916 or 1917. From there it appears to have spread to all tomato-growing States in Australia. It is certainly becoming a real menace to the tomato-growing industry in South Australia. In many cases growers have sustained losses estimated at hundreds of pounds owing to the disease.

The Apparatus Required.

Mr. Samuel pointed out that the seriousness of the disease demanded a thorough investigation at the earliest possible moment, but it was obvious that small field experiments should give way to accurate scientific research, conducted with all the necessary facilities available. An insect-proof glass house, rearing healthy plants and testing the inoculations from diseased plants was a integral part of such an investigation, and until such facilities were available at Urrbrae, very little progress could be made. The small glass house at present there, consisting of only one compartment, had cost £70. With the various compartments built in for the isolation of plants with different diseases, the cost would be at least £1,200. He had tried to obtain results by saving the seed from healthy plants and from diseased plants, and had found no regularity whatever. In some cases, plants from healthy seed had contracted the disease, while those grown from infected seed had remained immune. Similar experiments had been carried out by Mr. G. Quinn, the horticultural instructor to the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Samuel expressed the opinion that the matter was one calling for the co-operation of the growers, rather than for Government assistance.