REG. 17.7.26 News. 16.7.26 ADV. 17.7.26

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.

New Pictures for Art Gallery.

The monthly meeting of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery was held on Friday afternoon. Present—The President (Mr. S. Tallot Smith), in the chair; the Vice-President (Mr. L. H. Sholl), Mr. E. Davies, Mr. A. A. Edwards, Professor F. Wood Jones, Mr. H. P. Moore, Professor E. Daveler Naylor, Mr. C. M. Reid, Mr. B. S. Roach, and Dr. R. S. Rogers.

The President reported—Regarding the application of the University for the use of a triangle of land at north-eastern corner of the Board's lands, that the solicitor's opinion was that the board might issue to the University a license to use the land in question; and acting upon that opinion a licence had been prepared. Approved.

New Pictures for Art Gallery.

The Fine Arts Committee reported having inspected an exhibition of paintings by Mr. and Mrs. W. Pollen Bishop in the South Australian Society of Arts Gallery, and resolved that "No. 48, "Evening light, Eastbury," by Mr. W. Pollen Bishop, be purchased for the Art Gallery. Also inspected an exhibition of works by Mr. and Mrs. J. Giles, and recommended that No. 1, "Sunlight and Shade, Port Adelaide," by J. Giles, be purchased. Approved and adopted.

The fine arts committee reported having reconsidered the question of Art Gallery entertainments for this year, and recommended that no action be taken in the matter; recommended the acceptance of two panel paintings bequeathed by Amy F. Smart, received from the Public Trustee; approved the purchase from C. Morrisby, Sydney, of an original pen and ink drawing, "The Blind Man," by Norman Lindsay; recommended that the loan to the School of Mines and Industries of nine pen drawings by Reginald Barratt be renewed for 12 months; reported pieces of arms and armour from the Tower Armories had been received on loan from the Australian War Memorial; accepted with thanks a gift from Mr. R. Limb, of a snuff box said to be over 100 years old; accepted with thanks Mrs. Simpson Newland's gift of dry sketches of Australian natives by A. Schram (1859), a drawing of natives, and a water-colour sketch of first settlement at Adelaide (after Col. Light); recorded thanks to donors for gifts to the numismatic section; decided that no offer made for a Titian ("Temptation of Joseph") offered by Mrs. C. J. Seymour, of Melbourne; recommended that the Art Gallery catalogue be printed without delay.—Report approved and adopted.

The Museum Committee reported:—Approved of the loan of birds' skins to the Australian Museum (for examination and reproduction in coloured plate in The Emu) and to the Melbourne Museum (for examination by Mr. A. G. Campbell); approved the suggestion of the Acting Museum Director that the proposed exchange of stone implements with Dr. W. L. Crowther (Hobart) should await return of the Museum Director, and that meanwhile Professor Wood Jones should write to Dr. Crowther privately on the matter. Recommended that certain leopods be sent to Dr. Keppel H. Barnard, of the South African Museum, in exchange for South African species to be received. Received (a) letter from Mr. Morgan (honorary ornithologist), advising that his willingness to examine and report on bones of the extinct emu from Kangaroo Island; (b) Dr. Mecquis's preliminary report on the Kangaroo Island emu bones; and (c) letter from the Fauna and Flora Board, advising that the bones of the extinct emu from Kangaroo Island entrusted to the Hon. Ornithologist for examination and description are merely deposited in the Museum, and are not to be regarded as a donation.—Approved and adopted.

Library and Archives Committee.—Recommended that the South Sea Weekly, published at Suva, Fiji, be obtained for the library. Received report on the efforts being made to secure for the photographic record portraits of men who have attained distinction in public life in South Australia, and approved the purchase of an enlarged framed portrait of Professor Henderson, to be hung in the Archives Building. Received district council records from the Councils of Franklin Harbour, Kennion, and Hindmarsh Island, and from the District Council of Crafter. Received reports of donations from Dr. E. Angas Johnson (minute book of Kingston Methodist church of Christ, 1856-7); from Mrs. Simpson Newland (reports and papers relative to punitive expeditions against aborigines in 1840-1841) by the Commissioner of Police, Major T. O'Halloran); and from Messrs. F. E. Ward, T. C. A. Rogers, and the proprietors of The Register, The Observer, The Chronicle, The Railway Company, and Municipal Tramways Trust, Dr. A. A. Lendon, Miss Doughty, the Public Library of New South Wales, and the Port Adelaide Corporation, of newspapers and photographs.—Approved and adopted.

The Finance Committee reported:—General Purpose Account—Cheques drawn and Treasury debits, £385; balance in Treasury, July 13, £259 10/8. Savings Bank—Episcopo Fund—Balance in Savings Bank, £130 2/10. Bequests Account—Balance in Treasury (dr.), £10/19. Davis Murray Request.—Balance in Treasury, £112 16/8. Thomas Grose Bequest—Balance in Treasury, £37 13/10.

Rembrandt portrait.

Woman Doctor who is a Brilliant Linguist

Dr. Lica Sprod, who before her marriage to Dr. Milo Sprod, of Glenelg, was Dr. Lica Delprat, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Delprat, of Melbourne. She speaks the following languages fluently.

REG. 19.7.26 ADV. 19.7.26

THE EMPIRE'S ADVANCE GUARD.

Australia as a Home for Britons.

inter alia

By the Rev. A. G. B. West, of St. Dunstan's, London, formerly Rector of St. Augustine's, Unley.

REV. A. G. B. WEST.

THE ARID PROBLEM.

Evidence from the point of view of a botanist was given to the Pastoral Commission by Professor T. G. B. Osborn, who said five-sixths of South Australia could be termed arid country and some of it desert. The latter, he considered, was not unproductive of plant life, but it required careful management. He spoke simply as a botanist. He was not professing to be an expert on the pastoral industry. He was a student of plant life, and it appeared to him very early in his time in Australia there was one urgent problem to study, and that was vegetation in the arid parts of the State. An arid part was that which had 10 inches of rain or less annually. Accepting that definition, there was not less than 317,600 square miles of arid land in South Australia out of a total of 380,000 square miles, or, in other words, five-sixths had less than a 10-in. rainfall.

They also had in South Australia the only part of the Commonwealth which had less than 5 in. of rain a year. The arid problem was an Australian one, because more than one-third of the continent was what could be termed arid. It was no use shutting their eyes to the fact that country receiving under 5 in. of rain a year should be called desert. That did not mean that no plant life grew there, but in the conditions under which it did exist it required special treatment. A great deal of the pastoral rain fell in small amounts and was no use to the majority of plants.

The professor spoke of the value of saltbush and mulga in the arid parts. The mulga was a most valuable tree for holding soil together, and had an undoubted fodder value, which was a vital feature.

THE ERECT ATTITUDE OF MAN.

A Professor Explains How Superior Vision Enables Him to Stand Upright.

The Cavendish lecture on "Vision and Evolution," was delivered before the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society by Mr. G. Elliot Smith, M.D., Professor of Anatomy in the University of London.

"While no normal human being can possibly fail to appreciate in a general way how great a boon vision is, it is not until that any adequate appreciation has yet been made of the vast significance of the visual factor in our evolution. To us the world and most of what is happening in it is made known to us by sight. The attainment of muscular skill is determined mainly by the correlation of eye and hand, the eyes guiding the hand in acquiring what we significantly call dexterity. Our appreciation of beauty is based essentially on the visual appreciation of form, proportion, colour, and texture, as well as of movement.

"No one can question the tremendous influence of these aesthetic qualities on human relations or doubt the reality of sexual selection in mankind. But in addition to the part such factors play in determining aesthetic feelings and aesthetic choice, vision is possibly the most significant means of intercommunication between human beings. We judge our fellow men and women by their movements, their gestures, and their expressions. We read their feelings and intentions in their facial movements and feel that these speak a truer language than the words of articulate speech. In particular the eyes themselves are the most eloquent signals of the sentiments and emotions, a fact that finds ample expression not merely in the common experience of every human being, but also in our common speech and poetry, and in particular the slang phrases of every language. In addition, the eyes afford indications not only of the emotions but also of men's thoughts and intentions.

"Watching another human being, one almost instinctively appreciates the direction of their visual axes, and from such observations interprets the subject upon which attention is fixed. Speech was primarily the expression by acoustic symbols of the intercommunication of the thoughts of human beings, which previously had been expressed more truthfully but with less precision by signals of the eyes and facial muscles and manual gestures that appealed to vision. Vision, moreover, the fundamental factor in the development of intelligence in the human type. It is the essential instrument for observation and the process of learning by experience and especially by that training of hand and eye we call experimentation. The vocabulary of every language provides ample expression to the fundamental influence of vision in our intellectual life. . . . Its symbolism is predominantly visual—insight, foresight, and the rest.

"In man's ancestors the increasing reliance upon visual guidance by mammals with plastic undifferentiated—i.e., adaptable hands, made possible the emergence of those progressively expanding powers of discrimination that eventually led to the emergence of the distinctive powers of intelligence. The eyes guided the hands to learn an increasing number of skills. This incidentally cultivated the power of tactile discrimination and correlation between touch and sight. The increasing powers of regulating complex movements eventually conferred upon the cerebral cortex the ability to extend the range and precision of the conjugate movements of the eyes. This created the conditions that are essential before a mammacula lutea can develop in a mammalian eye. In addition, it made possible the attainment of stereoscopic perception.

"The researches of Sir Charles Sherrington and his collaborators, especially Professor Magnus, of Utrecht, have made responsible for calling attention to other ways in which the eyes come to play a part in the control of posture and behaviour. With the increasing reliance on vision the eyes acquire an influence in the regulation of posture (and the automatic reflexes controlled by the cerebellum) an essential part of the maintenance of posture) that is lacking in other mammals. The other posture-regulating mechanisms—labyrinthine, cervical, and cutaneous—are controlled by the brain-stem. The ocular regulation of posture, though automatic, involves the cerebral cortex. It thus becomes more intimately associated with the functions of acquiring muscular skills. The eventual attainment of the erect attitude by man is one of the expressions of the enhancement of the influence of vision and the increased part it plays in the regulation of posture and muscular activity in general.