

istence of love.
On the motion of Sir Archibald Strong seconded by Mr. E. W. Holden (president of the Graduates' Association), a hearty vote of thanks was tendered Professor Conway.

REG. 13. 9. 28

"MUSICAL CAPS AND GOWNS."

A correspondent writes:—In the September Australian Musical News the editor (Mr. Thorold Walters) refers to the recent correspondence and leading article in The Register on "Musical Caps and Gowns." Under the headings, "No Official Status, Certain Examining Concerns, Adelaide Register Speaks Plainly," the hope is expressed that "every decent newspaper in Australia will take up a similar stand." Attention is drawn to a leading article headed "Diplomas for All," in which The Register, which is one of Australia's greatest dailies, deals with this matter. Quoting the article at some length, the musical paper drily comments:—"We have yet to see any reply on behalf of the institutions concerned, although we have in our possession certain evidence that the representatives in Australia are fully aware of the effects which are likely to follow such plain and matter-of-fact talk." Quoting a correspondent in The Register who said that "Surely there must be a case for the 'colleges' that so generously award such things," and yearned for its brief statement, The Australian Musical News adds:—"It is only fair to explain that at the moment such a huge and dazzling list of further wearers of initials, and possibly caps and gowns, was being prepared that nothing else could properly be expected from so busy an organization."

REG. 14. 9. 28

Rome's Master Mind.

Sir—It was with real pleasure we spent the evening in the physics lecture theatre of the Adelaide University listening to Professor Robert S. Conway, Litt. D. (Cantab), as he gave his address, "Rome's Master Mind." It was refreshing to find that it was not Mussolini (although he would have been a most interesting subject), but Virgil, who was accounted Rome's master mind, with his simplicity and purity and close touch with Nature and rural life. His writings and the professor's interpretation of them gave one the idea that they wished to lead the thoughts of man up to the highest.

The intimation that Virgil's writings were considered of equal value to the student of religion as to the lover of romance, and that he borrowed from Hebrew writers his dreams of a new world to be ushered in by the Prince of Peace, give rise to thoughts that will send some of us to study Virgil for ourselves so that we can number him among their friends. I feel grateful to the professor for his beautiful address. One question I would like to ask—Why did so great a general as Julius Caesar, and such a highly trained army as the Roman army was, find the "savages painted Britons" so difficult to overcome after nine years' warring. And then only by the treachery of the Queen of the Brigantes was the chief Caractacus defeated and made prisoner in 51 A.D. and taken to Rome, where his dignified manner and noble address made such an impression on the cultured Emperor Claudius that he and his relatives were immediately pardoned? We have all been brought up to believe our ancestors were ignorant painted savages, but is it true?—I am, Sir, &c.,

"LISTENER."

REG. 14. 9. 28

"SITE OF VIRGIL'S FARM."

On Thursday afternoon Professor R. S. Conway, Hulme Professor of Latin in the University of Manchester, delivered a lecture in the physics classroom of the Adelaide University on "The Site of Virgil's Farm." There was a crowded attendance of students and professors, and the vice-chancellor Professor Chapman, presided. Professor Conway said that although Virgil was known to have been a citizen of Mantua, the locality in which his boyhood was spent was problematical. His own theory was that it was in the neighbourhood of Calvisano, where had been discovered an altar bearing the name of the poet's father, and which was 30 Roman miles from Mantua. That view was strengthened by references in the Eclogues to sluice gates, a cave, rocky land, and certain cliffs, which fitted in with the village he had named.

ADV. 14. 9. 28

VISIT TO WAITE INSTITUTE.

Delegates to the congress of the Agricultural Bureau visited the Waite Agricultural Research Institute on Thursday morning, and had the work which was being done there explained to them by the Director (Dr. A. E. V. Richardson) and members of the staff.

CANCER RESEARCH.

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

WORK OF THE ADELAIDE COMMITTEE.

The University Committee for the prosecution of methods of treatment of cancer and research is raising a fund to be devoted to radium and X-ray work. The Chief Secretary promised to refer a request for help to Cabinet, and said whatever amount was available would be given willingly.

Requesting that the Government should assist the committee enquiring into the methods of treating cancer, and making research as to its nature and cure, a deputation waited on the Chief Secretary (Hon. H. Tassie) on Thursday morning. Those present were Drs. A. A. Lendon, J. Corbin, and B. H. Morris, and Messrs. R. T. Melrose and H. W. Crompton.

Dr. Lendon, in introducing the deputation said those accompanying him were members of the committee recently formed within the University for the prosecution of methods of treatment of cancer and of research into its nature and cause. The committee proposed to conduct a thorough campaign throughout the State. A similar work had been going on for some years in England and in foreign countries. In several centres experiments were being constantly conducted as to the effect of the various vaunted "cures," for alleged cures for cancer had been foisted on the public from the earliest days of the art of healing.

A Rival to Surgery.

The most trustworthy experience assured them that surgery could do wonders for malignant disease, provided the victim was seen early enough. Till quite recently surgery had no rival. A case could either be operated upon, or it had to be pronounced inoperable, and therefore incurable. Latterly, however, X-rays and radium had been tried extensively, and had not been found wanting. In many surface cases radium alone was necessary for a cure; in others operation and deep X-ray therapy had to be combined. Meanwhile the developments of chemistry had been called to their aid, and the colloidal lead treatment was at this moment being tried in all the States of Australia.

The Plague Steadily Increasing.

But whilst individual members of the medical profession had put forth their efforts, no combined attempt had been made in this State to combat the plague, which was shown to be steadily increasing. They should still be in a sleepy hollow were it not for the energy of Dr. F. S. Hone, who, through his connection with the Commonwealth Department of Health, became aware of certain facts. Sir Neville Howse had persuaded the Federal Government to purchase some 10 grammes of radium at a cost of £100,000. On a population basis South Australia would be entitled perhaps to one gramme of this. One half of this amount had been offered to the State, but on certain conditions. The offer only held good for a certain period. It was an opportunity not to be lost.

Mr. R. T. Melrose said he had collected £2,400 in the last few weeks for the deep X-Ray therapy plant. Something like £10,000 was wanted, and he considered the State Government should contribute £5,000.

Views of the Medical Profession.

Dr. J. Corbin, speaking as the mouth-piece of the medical profession, spoke of the general feeling amongst the profession that every possible opportunity should be given them to carry out research work and treatment. At present there was not available a public deep X-Ray therapy plant, though this was most essential in the treatment of cancer. Radium would aid that treatment still further, and the profession felt that they would not be able to get radium in sufficiently large quantities to be effective. They hoped that the State would make it possible, both by Government aid and public subscription, to make the largest quantity available, and to house it in suitable rooms where the treatment could be effective. They hoped that the radium would, if eventually obtained, be made available to everybody, because they felt it belonged to the community. At present the profession had not available the means for treating inoperable cases, many of which

could be alleviated, if not cured, by the deep X-Ray therapy plant and radium.

Mr. H. W. Crompton said that the Queensland Government had put down £5,000, and the Commonwealth another £5,000, and there had been a committee formed, which had collected £27,000 in that State. He asked the Government to make available £5,000, which was rather less than 2½d. per head of the population of the State.

Difficult to Find Money.

The Chief Secretary said he was aware of the importance of the subject, and the Government had agreed to find the necessary amount of money that would enable the radium offered for use by the Commonwealth to be temporarily housed. The larger question of the support that the Government might give to the permanent scheme he would have to take to the Cabinet. The finances of the State were in such a condition that it would be exceedingly difficult for the Government to find money even to meet the commitments already entered into. Still, the importance of the work proposed, whatever money was available, was so great, and its effect upon the health of the community would be of such advantage, that he would have no hesitation in recommending Cabinet to meet the request of the deputation in the most generous possible spirit that finances would permit. There was no indication given whether a Government donation of £5,000 should be made, or whether the Government should subsidise £ for £ the amount of the subscriptions of the public up to that sum, but he felt that there should be a considerable amount raised by private subscription. In Queensland they had what the Government of South Australia felt was not desirable, something for exploiting the gambling propensities of the people. Dr Corbin said he understood that the donation was quite apart from the Golden Casket scheme.

The Chief Secretary said the donation might be quite apart from the scheme, but they secured a lot of money from the lottery which was devoted to health and other purposes. However, he was satisfied of the immense value of the work contemplated, and he also felt that the Cabinet would hold the same sympathetic view. The only thing that would possibly limit the Government's ability to assist would be the actual want of funds. Whatever amount could be made available would be given most willingly and gladly, in order to facilitate the work, and if possible to act as an incentive to the outside people to come to their assistance with the necessary funds. He would submit their request to the Cabinet, and give them an answer as early as possible.

SHORTAGE OF RADIUM.

COMPLAINTS IN SYDNEY.

Sydney, September 13.
The Cancer Research Committee reopened its clinic at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital to-day, and 200 patients attended from all over Australia. The committee, however, has been sadly hampered by the lack of supplies of radium, and unless these are forthcoming it will be impossible to treat many cases. The Federal Government have been approached, and although the Government purchased in the last twelve months radium worth £100,000, only one gramme, valued at £10,000, has been recently made available to the committee. Some concern is felt that the supply of this vitally necessary substance is being delayed.

REG. 14. 9. 28

INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY.

Objection to Increased Cost.

CANBERRA, Thursday.

A mild sensation has been caused by the action of the Federal Public Works Committee which, in a letter to the Minister for Home and Territories (Sir Neville Howse), has refused to proceed further with the investigation into the proposed Institute of Anatomy at Canberra until further plans are submitted to it.

Eighteen months ago the Works Committee approved of the plans for a building estimated to cost £60,000; but, in the meantime, amended plans for a building to cost £85,000 have been submitted to it. Such a large increase has caused enquiry into the reasons for the change of plans and Sir John Butters, chairman of the Federal Capital Commission, in evidence, stated that extra facilities and space were desired by Dr. McKenzie, whose priceless collection of Australian fauna it would house.

It is now asserted that Dr. McKenzie made no such request, and that the change of plans is due to the committee's desire for a more ornate building.

The unusual action of the committee in deliberately holding up the building may result in a special enquiry.

FEDERAL PARLIAMENT.

THE SENATE.

CANBERRA, Thursday.

Research Institute and Farm.

Mr. West (N.S.W.) proposed "That the Government set aside an area of 20 square miles of Federal Capital territory for a research institute station and farm; that an endowment of £1,000,000 be made, the income therefrom to be devoted to laboratories, field equipment, salaries of staff of scientific specialists and research scholarships and fellowships, open to science graduates of any Australian university; that an annual Australian research congress be held, also a triennial research congress, to which eminent men in biology, chemistry, and other fields of scientific research be invited; that the co-operation of the various State Governments and universities be sought in perfecting details of an Australian Research Institute; that the State Government be invited to send their officers engaged in research work, also Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors, Deans, and professors of the science faculties of the several universities to a convention for the purpose of drawing up, for submission to the Commonwealth Government, constitution rules and regulations for the government of the institute." The debate was adjourned.

REG. 15. 9. 28

ROME'S MASTER MIND.

From HARRY O. LEAVER, Croydon:—Professor Conroy, in his lecture at the Adelaide University on Wednesday evening, claimed the title of "Rome's Master Mind," for the poet Virgil. When I read the account of the lecture, I looked up a book of "Schiller and Horace," by Lord Lytton. On the odes and epodes of Horace, Lord Lytton is very generous in his praise, and he would, I think, give the palm to Horace. There seems to be some doubt about the nationality of Horace, and before Professor Darnley Naylor's departure from South Australia, he delivered a lecture, in which he expressed doubt whether Horace was a Greek or a Roman. On reading Lord Lytton's translation of Horace, one must come to the conclusion that Horace was a Roman. There is conclusive evidence that he was a Roman soldier. In regard to ode xii. "Invitation to Virgil," Lord Lytton says it is a vexed question among commentators whether Virgil here addressed be Virgil the poet; but Maclean, whom he quotes right through the book, is disposed to think that it is, and that the mythological imagery and the description of spring with which the poem opens, are addressed to the author of the Eclogues and Georgics, who was a personal friend of Horace. In ode xxxvii., "On the Fall of Cleopatra," Horace, according to Lord Lytton, conspicuously manifests his unrivalled art of combining terseness and completeness.

ADV. 15. 9. 28

"ROME'S MASTER MIND."

From "A LISTENER," Magill:—It was with real pleasure that I spent Wednesday evening in the physics lecture theatre of the Adelaide University, listening to Professor Robert S. Conway, as he delivered his address, "Rome's Master Mind," and refreshing to find that it was not Mussolini (although he would have been a most interesting subject), but Virgil, who was accounted Rome's master mind. His writings and the professor's interpretation of them gave one the idea that he wished to lead the thoughts of man up to the highest. The intimation that Virgil's writings were considered to be as valuable to the student of religion as to the lover of romance, and that he borrowed from Hebrew writers his dreams of a new world, to be ushered in by the Prince of Peace, gives rise to thoughts that will send some of us to study Virgil for ourselves, so that we can number him among their friends. I feel grateful to the professor for his beautiful address. One question I would like to ask: Why did so great a general as Julius Caesar and the highly-trained Roman army find the "savages painted Britons" so difficult to overcome, after nine years' warring, and then only by the treachery of the Queen of the Brigantes? We have been brought up to believe that our ancestors were ignorant, painted savages; but is it true?