

Ref. 29-8-30

## £50,000 TO SPEND ON EDUCATION RESEARCH

### New Body Begins Work

Valuable results are expected from the recent establishment of the Council for Educational Research in Australia, which was created to administer a grant of £5,000 a year for 10 years from the Carnegie Corporation, of the United States.

The council has no counterpart in any other country in the world.

It has undertaken to initiate and support educational investigations throughout the Commonwealth. Although it will co-operate closely with education departments, it is an entirely independent body.

Reports will be published of its investigations, the first of which will deal with the correspondence tuition of children in all States. Australia has been the first country to prove the practicability of teaching children in outlying areas by post, some States teaching 5,000 children in this way.

South Australia, in particular, has done excellent work by its correspondence school.

#### MOVING PICTURE FILMS

Other investigations to be undertaken include a study of the value of moving picture films in illustrating lessons; tests of attainment in school subjects, such as reading and arithmetic; the inter-relation of physical and mental tests; and the brain capacity of children.

Grants have been made to other bodies or individuals to carry out educational research.

One of these grants will enable a study to be made of the number of young people who can be absorbed into different occupations.

Other tests sanctioned include the teaching of English and history; for how long children of different ages can concentrate on one subject; and the classification and promotion of students.

Adv. 29-8-30

## EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

### IMPORTANT INVESTIGATIONS

The establishment of the Council for Educational Research, on April 1, has set on foot throughout Australia a number of investigations which hold very great educational possibilities.

The council was formed to administer a grant of £5,000 a year for ten years made by the Carnegie Corporation of the United States. The council has undertaken to initiate and support educational investigations throughout the Commonwealth, but although it works in close co-operation with educational departments and organisations, it is an entirely independent body.

Reports are to be published on investigations carried out, and one of the first will be based on a study of the correspondence tuition for elementary school children in the various States. Australia has made a unique contribution to the problem of providing education for children in sparsely populated areas by proving the possibility of carrying out that instruction by correspondence, some States teaching 5,000 children in that way. Another investigation, which it is hoped to complete before the end of the year, is one being carried out in seven schools in Melbourne, to ascertain how much benefit children derive from the use of moving films to illustrate lessons. Another project is the working out of accurate tests of attainment in school subjects, such as reading and arithmetic.

The council has discussed plans for making a comprehensive study of the curricula in elementary schools. The study of the inter-relation of physical and mental tests is also being carried out, which should go far towards settling, among other things, the exact significance of the measurement of brain capacity.

Adv. 29-8-30

## ADELAIDE AUTHOR

### WORK ON AUSTRALIA

LONDON, August 28.

"Australia," by W. K. Hancock, a fellow of All Souls, Oxford, and professor of modern history at the University of Adelaide, is the title of a book published by Benns, who are adding it to their series surveying the historical forces of the modern world. The author traces the foundation of the country, and its political economy, politics, literature, and art.

Adv. 29-8-30

Sir George Murray Essays.—For the essay competition conducted by the Institute of Public Administration, six entries have been received. Prizes have been donated by the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray). The essays are being judged by Professor J. McKellar Stewart, of the University of Adelaide.

Adv. 30-8-30

Sir Archibald Strong (Professor of English Literature at the University of Adelaide) was taken ill suddenly last night. At a late hour Dr. de Crespigny, who is attending him, reported that the patient showed a slight improvement, but his condition was still serious.

Adv. 1-9-30

#### GIFTS TO UNIVERSITY

At the meeting of the Council of the University valuable gifts of apparatus were reported. Dr. William Ray has donated to the physics department a powerful induction coil with accessory equipment for the production of X-rays, and the Neon Lamp Co. specimen lamps filled with argon, neon and other gases for purposes of demonstration and spectroscopic observations.

Adv. 23-8-30

#### Too Old at Forty

Mr. A. L. Gordon Mackay, of the Adelaide University, has ruffled the waters of controversy in London by a remark, at the Institute of Public Administration Conference at Oxford, that "one of the tragedies of those engaged in the work of public administration is the extent to which their minds lose resilience after the age of 40." Men over 40, he added, "tend more and more to become oyster-like and close up their minds. These men realise that their minds are closing and and try every means to produce excitement, from whisky upwards—or downwards." "Too Old at Forty" being as good a theme for a summer season discussion as any other, the papers have fallen with avidity upon Mr. Mackay's observation. "If it had any existence except in the minds of disputatious dogmatists," says the "Daily Sketch," caustically, "so much premature decay combined with chronic alcoholism might well cause us to despair of the nation's future. Fortunately, however, our dotards of 40 (thanks, perhaps, to their oyster-like minds) have not yet perceived the decay of their faculties and persist in dissembling their senility." The "Star" sought the opinion of "Jix" (disguised nowadays as Lord Brentford), who replied, weightily—"I do not know who Mr. Gordon Mackay is, nor does that influence my views. I have held five different offices in the Government of this country, in two of the biggest of which I was the head. I have been brought into the closest and most intimate touch with the Higher Civil Servants, who, of course, are over the age of 40. Their minds are as clear and active and resilient as the minds of any men can possibly be."

The "Star" also asked Brigadier-General Crozier, author of one of the most sensational of the war books ("A Brass Hat in No Man's Land") what he thought about it. "It is lamentably true," he declared, "that at the age of 40 the mind of the civil servant and the soldier in peace time becomes completely closed. Unlike the sailor and the airman, they are not called upon to make vital decisions, and in consequence their minds tend to close up. It is, indeed, an astounding thing that a man, the moment he enters a Government department, is compelled apparently to lose his sense of niceness. He is out to defend either the State or his own department, whether they be right or wrong." Neither the Higher nor the Lower Civil Servants can be expected to take this sort of thing lying down, and the controversy threatens to become acrimonious. What do Adelaide civil servants, over and under forty, think about it?

Adv. 2-9-30

## ELDER CONSERVATORIUM

### CONCERT BY STAFF

By ALEX. BURNARD

A well-balanced programme and one alive with interest was that given in the Elder Hall by members of the Conservatorium Staff last night. Perfect sympathy existed between Miss Ivy Ayers and Mr. John Horner in their playing of Norman O'Neill's charming set of Variations and Fugue, on an Irish theme, for two pianos (first performance here). Several previously unexploited two-piano possibilities are happily incorporated in this work. All the variations are skilfully diversified, and the Fugue lost nothing from its seemingly unorthodox style. A repetition of this delightfully fresh work would be welcome.

Debussy's one-movement Sonata, for 'cello and piano, might have been written for Mr. Harold Parsons and Miss Maude Puddy. I have seldom heard 'cello tone to approach that of last night. With Debussy one almost invariably associates such romantic ideas as rivers, meadows, and a languorous warmth; and while the work in question seemed to flow on as a piece of spontaneous improvisation, yet this second hearing showed unmistakably the underlying form.

Three well-chosen English songs formed Mr. Harold Denton's bracket. Peter Warlock's "The Bailey Beareth the Bell Away" is informed with a haunting sadness, and the restraint of its singing was most artistic. "Wood Magic," of Martin Shaw, is a remarkable setting of words equally fine. Here is drama (we, too "saw the flame": the vivid music compelled us), and here also religious devotion—in the chorale-paean. A striking song. Mr. Denton both sang and lived every tumbling second of Walford Davies's evergreen "When Childer Plays." Mr. George Pearce accompanied sympathetically.

Mr. Peter Bornstein's redoubtable technique was in evidence in the Bach unaccompanied violin Sonata in E major. I thought that both the prelude and the gavotte (which he was obliged to repeat at the end of the Sonata) might have benefited—from the listener's standpoint—by a more deliberate tempo. Lightning speed seemed more apt in the case of the bourree and gigue. His tone and phrasing were as exquisite as ever.

A group of "romantic" piano solos showed Mr. William Silver's mastery of his instrument. A mood of tender yearning pervaded the aria from Schumann's Sonata, Op. 11. The Brahms's B minor Rhapsody was given in all its robust virility and undercurrent of proud irony—a great performance. The "Andante Splanato" of Chopin cloyed rather; but the horses galloped grandly in the A flat Polonaise, though there were moments when the tone approached harshness. Mr. Silver added the Gluck-Brahms's Gavotte.

The programme concluded with Schubert's Quartet in E flat (Op. 125, No. 1)—played by the Conservatorium String Quartet—Mr. Peter Bornstein, Miss Kathleen Meegan, Miss Sylvia Whittington, and Mr. Harold Parsons. The tiny scherzo was full of the skirl of the pipes, and a diatonic, early-Beethoven simplicity characterised the adagio. There were no surprises, but the work gave scope for some beautifully level playing. The concluding allegro was more in the accepted Schubert style—rhythmic and piquant. A little bird has evidently whispered Adelaide audiences that applause between movements is "not done." At all events they were most circumspect throughout the quartet, but at the close there was no stint to their plaudits.

Ref. 3-9-30

## DEATH OF PROFESSOR SIR A. STRONG

### One Of Australia's Famous Literary Men

#### NOTED AUTHOR

Sir Archibald Strong, Professor of English at the Adelaide University, died yesterday at Ru Rua Hospital. Last Friday he was in the city apparently in good health, and chatted cheerily with friends. Later he suffered a paralytic seizure, and never regained consciousness. He was in his fifty-fourth year.

Thus for the second time this year, death has robbed the University of one of its professors, for Professor Brailsford Robertson died on January 17.

Lecturer, author, critic, and censor, the late Sir Archibald Thomas Strong was all his life intimately associated with literature in Australia.

Professor Strong had occupied the Jury Professorship in English language and literature at Adelaide University since March, 1922. A master in art, whether in the form of literature, speech, music, pictures, or histrionic presentation, he filled a big place in the life of the city as well as of the University, and made a host of friends. Founder and original trustee of the Melbourne Repertory Theatre Club, and President of the Mermaid Play Society, upon coming to Adelaide Professor Strong manifested keen interest in the local Repertory Theatre, and for some time had been its president.



Sir A. Strong

He was also an author of considerable note. Among his works are volumes of poems, songs and sonnets; poetical translations of Old English epics, a short history of English literature, and a series of studies in Shelley, Nature in Meredith and Wordsworth, Australia in the War, and The Story of the Anzacs.

Sir Archibald Thomas Strong, whose father, Dr. H. A. Strong, was at one time Professor of Classics at Melbourne University, was born in the Victorian capital in 1876. He was educated in England, his father having been Professor of Latin at Liverpool University. The son became Baring prizeman at Liverpool University, and an exhibitioner at Magdalen College, Oxford. Afterwards he studied in Germany and at the Middle Temple.

He returned to Australia, and subsequently at Melbourne University was successively lecturer in English and acting Professor in English Literature and Language. For five years also he was chief film censor for the Commonwealth. Rejected for active service during the great conflict he was commissioned for war work in Australia. He was knighted five years ago.

#### REPERTORY POSTPONES PERFORMANCE

Out of respect to Sir Archibald, who was president of the Repertory Theatre, the performance of The Man With a Load of Mischief, which was to have been given tonight, has been postponed until next Wednesday.

#### NO LECTURES TODAY

Because of the death of Sir Archibald Strong, there will be no lectures at the University today.

The examination in Chemistry I. has been postponed for a week.

Ref. 3-9-30

## A BELOVED PROFESSOR PASSES

HUNDREDS of students who have studied English at Adelaide University will learn with sorrow of the death of Professor Sir Archibald Strong.

Always anxious to help undergraduates with a genuine love of literature Sir Archibald made his loaded library an open sesame to many, and was never too busy to discuss with them any movement or aspect of literature on which they needed a more mature judgment than their own.

Sir Archibald's interest, however, went further than that. Many gifted graduates, girls as well as boys, are now in good positions in their right niche because of Professor Strong's efforts on their behalf.

Ref. 16-9-30

Adelaide City Council decided yesterday to place on record its regret at the death of Sir Archibald Strong.