

SIR JOSEPH VERCO LEAVES £53,800

Charitable Organisations To Benefit

Estate sworn not to exceed £53,800 has been left by Sir Joseph Verco, of Adelaide, who died last month. Many charitable institutions will benefit, and bequests of paintings have been made to the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery.

Subject to Lady Verco's life interest, the estate will be divided among the following charities and institutions:— Minda Home, S.A. Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, Royal Institution for the Blind, Cottage Homes, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., University of Adelaide for purposes of medical school, University of Adelaide for purposes of dental school, British and Foreign Bible Society (S.A. Auxiliary), Mission to Lepers (Australian Auxiliary), Tynholm Orphanage, London, Adelaide Children's Hospital, S.A. Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission and Angas Home, Queen's Home, Medical Benevolent Association of S.A., District Trained Nursing Society of S.A., School for Mothers' Institute and Baby Health Centre, South Australian committee of Sudan United Mission (Australian and New Zealand branch), Foreign Missions Committee of Churches of Christ (Great Britain), Foreign Missions Committee of Churches of Christ (South Australia), Royal Society of South Australia, Dr. Barnardo's Homes National Incorporated Association, Shaftesbury Society, and Ragged School Union, England, Poona and Indian Village Mission, Pandharpur Hospital, Babies' Hospital Association in South Australia, Adelaide Rescue Society, South Adelaide Creche, Woman's Christian Temperance Union of South Australia, St. Margaret's Convalescent Hospital, Semaphore, Adelaide Benevolent and Strangers' Friend Society, Adelaide City Mission, Boys' Brigade, South Australia, South Australian Sunday School Union, St. John Ambulance Association, Adelaide, Port Adelaide Seamen's Mission, Our Boys' Institute, South Australia, Hindmarsh Town Mission, James Brown Memorial Trust, Kalyra Sanatorium, Belair, South Australian Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Zenana Bible Mission and Medical Mission, Australasian Council, Home for Incurables.

Congress President



DR. H. T. J. EDWARDS, president of the eighth Australian Dental Congress, which opens on Monday.

MUSEUM TO DEPICT DENTAL HISTORY

Sidelight of Big Congress Here Next Week

Interesting sidelights of the eighth Australian Dental Congress, to be opened in Adelaide on Monday, will be a museum, showing the history of dentistry, and practical operations which will be performed upon patients for the instruction of members of the profession.

The congress will be opened by the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) in the Masonic Hall, North terrace, and will last for a week. More than 400 dentists from all over Australia will attend the congress, which will be held at the School of Mines.

The president of the congress is Dr. H. T. J. Edwards, who is also president of the South Australian branch of the Australian Dental Association.

Practical operations will be performed on about 12 patients, who will be given the best possible attention available in Australia. The museum shows the history of dentistry since early in the nineteenth century. There is a complete record of the progress made in anaesthesia, and antiquated methods of administering gas are on view. Vicious-looking pincers show that dentists were by no means gentle a few years ago, and the museum has lent carved sticks and special stones, with which the Australian natives knock out their teeth. Abnormalities are featured, and there are also examples of the plaster casts work of the Adelaide Museum, which uses a special method recognised by many to be the best in the world.

A trade display has been arranged at the School of Mines, and it is estimated that the appliances on view in the display are valued at £10,000. The exhibits in the Museum have been insured for £1,000. A comprehensive sports programme has been prepared for the entertainment of the visiting dentists and their wives. On Monday members will register at the School of Mines and the official opening will take place at 10.30 a.m. The trade exhibits will be opened at 12.30 p.m. and papers will be given from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. At 3 p.m. the visiting wives and women dentists will be given a reception by the Acting Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Cain). There will be a dinner to visiting presidents at the Oriental Hotel at 7 p.m., and an A.I.F. dinner and social at the Returned Soldiers' Club at 7.30 p.m.

The acting Lord Mayor (Alderman J. Cain) and the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry (Dr. A. M. Cudmore) also welcomed the delegates.

Overseas Messages

The secretary of the congress (Mr. H. J. Lipman) read messages from the president of the British Dental Association, the chairman of the Dental Board of the United Kingdom, the president of the Chicago Centennial Dental Congress, the president of the Dental Association of France, and the Canadian Dental Association.

Dr. J. V. Hall Best (New South Wales), replying to the speeches of welcome, said it was pleasing to learn the origin of the Governor's courage, for which he was famed. He had been impressed with what he had seen of the civic development of Adelaide. Mr. S. L. Lumb (Victoria) said the congress enabled them to forget that they belonged to different States and to become good Australians. All problems should be faced in this manner, and he would like to see all dentists in Australia on a common basis. Dr. J. A. Campbell Wilson (Western Australia) said he was proud to be leading the largest delegation which had ever left Western Australia for a dental congress. Dr. R. P. Rheuben (Queensland) also replied.

Introducing the president, the vice-president of the congress (Mr. Alex. Swann) said that Dr. Edwards had had a rapid and brilliant academic and professional career. He represented the profession on the Faculty, on the Dental Board, and in every activity of the profession. This represented a sacrifice of time and work which had culminated in his achieving the presidency of the congress. He paid a tribute to the influence of the late Sir Joseph Verco on the profession, and the gathering stood in silence for a minute as a token of respect.

President's Speech

Dr. Edwards said it was not so long since dentistry was practised as a sideline in conjunction with a bewildering variety of other occupations. The discovery and acceptance of the importance of the role played by teeth in relation to general health led to legislation for the safeguarding of the public and controlling the profession. This had led to higher and higher educational, professional, and technical requirements for dentists. The Australian dental profession owed a great deal to the late Sir Joseph Verco, through whose untiring enthusiasm South Australia obtained a dental school of its own. He also paid a tribute to the pioneering efforts of Mr. Alex. Swann. He hoped that the example of France and Italy would not be followed in requiring a full medical course prior to dental training. He did not think it would raise the efficiency of the profession and the rewards of dental practice in comparison with medicine were such that all or most of the potential leaders in the dental sphere would be lost to other avenues of effort. It would, in any case, lead to an increase in the cost of dental service.

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"RISING TIDE OF DENTAL DISEASE"

Speeches At Congress

NEED FOR EDUCATION OF PEOPLE

Use Of Toothbrush

At the opening of the eighth Australian Dental Congress at the Masonic Hall yesterday, the president (Dr. H. T. J. Edwards) said that the universal use of the toothbrush had not resulted in any marked decrease in dental disease. Its daily use had become a habit, unthinkingly performed without any realisation of the object in view. Even used intelligently, the toothbrush was only part of the battle being waged against the rising tide of dental disease in the community.

"Investigators in recent years are realising that wholesale public dentistry must always be an economic failure," he said. "The remedy lies with the people themselves. A public consciousness must be awakened, and a demand made for education in the ways and means of preventing the alarming persistence of dental disease. Just as thousands of pounds have been wasted by the public during the past 20 years in buying toothbrushes, so have thousands of pounds been wasted in employing official dentists to fill teeth, while, at the same time, the incoming stream has never lessened. At the Forsyth Infirmary in America, after ten years of concentrating on education and the achievement of a community conscience, 16 dentists can now keep the teeth of the children healthy where formerly 1,000 dentists would have been required. The cost of this public education is almost negligible in comparison with the salaries which would have to be paid under the old system."

Knowledge of the factors which caused dental degeneration were far from complete, he said, but enough was known to render unnecessary much of the dental repair work being performed. Much of the cost of the work was being borne by the individuals concerned, but a great deal was expended by Governments. The establishment of free school clinics and dental hospitals throughout the country must become a tremendous drain on public finance, and, he feared, end

in comparative failure. The operation of school clinics had been attended by most beneficial results, but if it was hoped to bring about dental fitness during school-going years by this means, the goal was unattainable. The only method of bringing this about was through intensive and continued instruction in preventive dentistry in the schools. Each day saw the beginning of thousands of cavities and numberless cases of preventable dental irregularities, and properly directed education would save future generations from pain and discomfort and conditions which would ultimately be a menace to their health.

Governor's Interest

In opening the congress, the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) said the combined knowledge and experience represented by the 400 delegates from all States would be of infinite value to the profession generally. There could be no question of the value of such conferences. The written word was a poor substitute for the spoken word.

"Sometimes I have to speak on subjects of which I am completely ignorant, but from my earliest childhood I have been closely associated with members of your profession," he said. "One of my earliest recollections—not my most pleasant—is of a visit to a member of your profession. He was a charming man, and I took a great fancy to him when I first met him. As our acquaintance ripened I did not like him so much. He said he would not hurt me. I took him at his word, and my faith in human nature was shattered. I was congratulated by my parents on the courage I had shown—I had not shown any—and taken to the circus as a reward. There was an elephant there with enormous tusks, and I wondered what he did when he had a toothache."

Origin Of Many Diseases

There could be no doubt, he said, that the importance of dentistry was becoming more realised every day. The origin of some diseases, for many years obscure, had now been traced to dental trouble. The closest co-operation should be maintained with other branches of medical science. The public was realising more and more the importance of the care of teeth. Thousands of children in the past had had their health affected by lack of care of teeth, and dentists could play a great part in the preservation of the health of the community.

"Dentists get to the root of things," he said. "They excavate what is wasteful and harmful, replace it with wholesome substitutes, and stave off decay. If the principles of your profession were taken as a model by us all, the evils of today would be speedily eradicated." The Chief Secretary (Mr. Ritchie) said it had been held that a nation was to be judged by its principal cities, but he thought a nation could be made great by the health of its people, which depended to a large extent on the state of their teeth.

DENTAL CONGRESS AGENDA

Wide Range Of Subjects

The agenda of the Dental Congress which will meet in Adelaide next week was announced yesterday. It covers a wide range of subjects and between 60 and 70 papers and demonstrations will be given during the four days occupied by the conference. They have been prepared by 24 New South Wales members of the Dental Association, 16 Victorian, 15 South Australian, two Queensland, and two Western Australian, several of them contributing two or more.

The sessions will be held daily from Monday till Thursday, at the School of Mines, from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m., except those beginning at 2 p.m., which will be held in the Rennie Theatre in the new chemistry building at the University. At this session the chief addresses each day will be delivered. The subjects to be dealt with have been grouped into four sections—Surgery, Odontology, Prosthetic, and Economics—the discussions in which will proceed simultaneously.

The chief address on Monday will be delivered by Dr. Charles Allen, of Melbourne, on "The Microscopic Structure of Dental Enamel and Its Relationship to Dental Caries." In the economics section Mr. G. A. Miller-Randle, of Adelaide, will deliver an address entitled "A Plea for the Study of Economics in Societies." The president of the congress (Dr. H. T. J. Edwards, of Adelaide) will deliver the main address on Tuesday, his subject being, "Full Denture Construction and the General Practitioner." Others who will contribute papers are Drs. R. Morse Withycombe and R. M. Gillies, of Sydney, Drs. R. P. Rheuben, and A. Livingstone, of Brisbane, Drs. A. I. Chapman and P. R. Newling, of Adelaide, and Dr. K. F. Skues, of Melbourne.

A film, "The Problem of the Child," and a paper on "Dental Health Education in New South Wales," by Mr. E. B. Green, of Sydney, will be presented at 2 p.m. on Wednesday. This will be followed by a paper on "The Application of Business Principles to Dental Practice," by Mr. H. J. Lipman, of Adelaide. Drs. W. E. Fleming, F. A. Ald, and H. R. Cash, of Melbourne, Drs. A. J. Arnett, W. J. Wearn, and E. F. Deck, of Sydney, and Drs. Gilbert Brown and J. A. O'Donnell, of Adelaide, will also contribute papers. Among the speakers on Thursday will be Miss A. Praed and Dr. J. S. Baird, of Sydney, Dr. H. A. McCoy, of Adelaide, and Drs. W. S. Wilkinson, A. C. Mason Cox, and J. Polack, of Melbourne.