

HIGH HONOR CONFERRED

Vercò Medal To Prof. Cleland

The Vercò Medal, the highest honor which the Royal Society can confer upon one of its members, was awarded to Prof. J. B. Cleland at the annual meeting of the society last night.

The medal, which was first struck in 1928 in recognition of the service which the late Sir Joseph Vercò performed for the Royal Society, is awarded for distinguished scientific research. It has been awarded to four members. In 1929 Prof. Walter Howchin was the recipient, in 1930 Mr. John Black was honored, and in 1931 Prof. Sir Douglas Mawson received the medal.

In announcing the award, Prof. J. A. Prescott, the retiring president, said that during the last year the council of the Royal Society had given earnest consideration to the award. In moving that the medal should be awarded to Prof. Cleland, Prof. Harvey Johnston said that it was a particularly fitting choice.

Prof. Cleland has been a member of the Royal Society for 38 years, and during that time he has contributed 23 papers on diversified subjects. He was a member of the council from 1921 to 1926, president from 1927 to 1928, and vice-president from 1926 to 1927. Prof. Cleland is professor of pathology at the University of Adelaide, and he led the recent University-Museum anthropological expedition to Ernabella.

In responding, Prof. Cleland said that his father had nominated him as an associate member of the Royal Society when he was only 16 years old, and had just begun his medical studies.

NEW PRESIDENT
Mr. J. M. Black was elected president of the society in place of Prof. A. J. Prescott. Mr. Black, who is one of the best-known botanists in Australia, was a member of the council from 1927 to 1931, when he was elected vice-president.

Prof. Howchin was again elected editor for the society, a position which he has held for about 41 years. He joined the society in 1883.

A credit balance of £744 was disclosed in the financial statement, which was submitted by the treasurer (Dr. Charles Fenner) and prepared by Mr. O. A. Glastonbury. The publication of the 56th volume of the society's transactions accounted for £194.

Officers elected were:—
President, Mr. J. M. Black; senior vice-president, Dr. T. D. Campbell; junior vice-president, Mr. C. T. Madigan; treasurer, Dr. W. Christie; secretary, Mr. R. W. Seguit; editor, Prof. W. Howchin; council, Drs. L. K. Ward and H. K. Fry; auditors, Messrs. W. O. Hackett and O. A. Glastonbury. The Chief Inspector of Schools (Mr. H. C. Hosking) and Dr. Allan Walkley, resident chemist, Waite Agricultural Institute, and Mrs. Walkley were elected fellows of the society.

Adv. 14-10-33

Sir Langdon Bonython will be 85 tomorrow. He joined the literary staff of "The Advertiser" in 1864, and became a proprietor in 1879. He was editor and sole proprietor of the paper for 35 years, and in 1929 disposed of it to Advertiser Newspapers, Limited, together with its associated papers, "The Chronicle" and "The Express." Since 1889 Sir Langdon Bonython has been president of the South Australian School of Mines and Industries, which he has provided with one of the most complete laboratories in the Commonwealth. For many years he has taken a keen interest in education, and has given £45,000 to the University of Adelaide to erect the Bonython Great Hall, and £20,000 to endow a Chair of Law. He was a member of the first and second Commonwealth Parliaments, is a member of the Adelaide University Council, and holds positions on numerous bodies associated with education. He has taken an active interest in Cornish institutions, notably the Royal Institution of Cornwall, of which he is president.

Professor J. B. Cleland, of the University of Adelaide, has been awarded the Vercò medal by the Royal Society of South Australia. This is the highest honor the society can award, and was struck in 1928 in recognition of the services of the late Sir Joseph Vercò to scientific research. Professor Cleland has been a member of the society for 38 years and has been president of the council for some time.

Adv. 16-10-33

University English

From "A Parent," Toorak:—I have before me the "Manual of the Public Examinations Board, 1933." Comments by the examiner or examiners for intermediate English literature are a severe flagellation of the English used in the examination test by youngsters aged about 14 years, from whom over-refinements of style should not be expected. That being so, one would at least ask that the diction of the fault-finder be beyond reproach. Instead of this, I find the following slipshod sentence:—"The examiners this year noted a number of slovenly expressions in the papers against which they think it desirable that a firm stand should be made from the very beginning of a training in the use of English words." Thirty-nine words without a comma! Does "against which" refer to the papers or the slovenly expressions? More correctly and elegantly one would have written, "This year the examiners noted in the papers a number of slovenly expressions, against which," &c. Then we find "In one essay 'will' was used incorrectly no less than ten times." Humbly I point out to so pure and so lofty a stylist that "less" applies to quantity, not number, and to have been safe in his glass house he should have written "No fewer than ten times." According to Murray's Oxford Dictionary, "approximately" means nearly. Why pillory youngsters of 14 for using it in such a sentence as "The length of the street is approximately a quarter of a mile," and then prate about "a growing disregard for the accepted meanings of words?" The examiner next lapses into a redundancy by inserting the useless words "at all" in the following sentence:—"There seems no reason at all why the simple English word 'about' should be discarded." Another sentence begins with the horrible crudity "But even."

Adv. 16-10-33

This evening Lady Hore-Ruthven will be present at the final concert of the Elder Conservatorium at the Adelaide University.

Adv. 17-10-33

Conservatorium Recital

Chamber music of a high order was heard at the Elder Conservatorium recital last night. With Mr. George Pearce as solo pianist, Mr. Peter Bornstein (first violin), Misses Clarice Gmeiner (second violin), Sylvia Whittington (viola), and Mr. Harold Parsons (cello), a great rendering of Gabriel Faure's noble G minor quartet was achieved. From impassioned opening, through tumultuous scherzo and sheerly beautiful adagio to virile finale, this great work received masterly treatment.

Sir Walford Davies in his "Peter Pan Suite" provided opportunities of expressive playing of which the instrumentalists fully availed themselves. The "Serpentine" and "Peter's Glad Heart" movements went delightfully. "Peter's Lullaby to his Mother," the finale, a thing of rare mystic charm, was particularly well done. Haydn was drawn upon for his D major quartet, which received felicitous treatment.

Lovers of the modernistic idiom in music were well catered for in the setting for six voices by Dr. Alex Burnard of "Four Tudor Madrigals," to words by Shakespeare, Nicholas Breton, and an anonymous writer. They relied for their success more on the clever academic use of restless tonality than any particular melodic charm. Conducted by the composer, they were well sung by Mesdames Alex Burnard and James Davidson, Miss Hilda Gill-Messrs. Howard Bauerochse, Clifford Lathlean, and Harry Wotton.

Adv. 17-10-33

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

Preparations are being made for the annual University examinations for degrees and diplomas. They will be held early in November.

VICTORIAN APPOINTMENT FOR W.E.A. TUTOR

Miss Edna Holmes, a tutor for the Workers' Educational Association, has been appointed head mistress of St. Catherine's School, Toorak, Melbourne. She will leave Adelaide to begin her new duties in February.

Miss Holmes was born in Tasmania and educated at Methodist Ladies' College, Adelaide. She studied law at the University of Adelaide, and secured her L.L.B. degree, being admitted to the Bar in 1925. After four years with Varley, Evan & Thomson, solicitors, Miss Holmes passed M.A. honors in philosophy at the university, and then visited Scotland. She took a post-graduate course at the Edinburgh University in philosophy, and then studied at Oxford, Paris, and Freiburg (South Germany).

Miss Holmes returned from abroad last year. She was a vice-president of the University Women's Union and president and the Debating Club, and is keenly interested in the League of Nations.

Adv. 18-10-33

University And Free Speech

"I do not see why we should copy a mistake made by the University of Adelaide," said Professor Murdoch, when opposing the adoption of a regulation governing the tenure of office and duties of University teachers, then being discussed by the University Senate. He was attempting to protect professors and lecturers against the danger of dismissal for expressing opinions obnoxious to members of the Senate.

The Chancellor (Sir Walter James), Sir John Kirwan (President of the Legislative Council), and Mr. Somerville, a Labor representative, saw danger in teachers becoming public protagonists, the last instancing a Sydney University teacher who perpetually ridiculed the White Australia doctrine.

Professors Shann and Murdoch introduced an amendment altering the sentence giving the Senate power to dismiss a teacher, which read:—"Whose continuance in his office or in the performance of his duties shall, in the opinion of the Senate, be injurious to the progress of the students or to the interests of the university," to a sentence giving the Senate power to dismiss a professor "who has been guilty of such misconduct as, in the opinion of the Senate, renders his continuance in office detrimental to the University."

On the one hand, of course, it may be contended that a citizen of presumably more than average intelligence should be free to speak his mind on matters of public interest, especially which concerns his own subject; on the other hand, academic teaching requires a certain atmospherical calmness which a teacher who plunges into public propaganda can convert into a seething turmoil.

News 18-10-33

PROFESSORS' RIGHT TO SPEAK

No Adelaide Dismissals

"No professor has ever been dismissed from the Adelaide University for any utterance he has made," the registrar (Mr. Eardley) said today.

Mr. Eardley was referring to a report from Perth that, in attempting to protect professors and lecturers against the danger of dismissal for expressing opinions obnoxious to members of the senate, Prof. Murdoch said that he did not see why Perth should copy a mistake made by the Adelaide University.

Mr. Eardley said that it was not clear in the report what mistake was referred to, but pointed out that Adelaide professors were governed by the following statutes:—

"The Council may at its discretion dismiss from his office or suspend for a time from performing the duties and receiving the salary thereof any professor whose continuance in his office or in the performance of the duties thereof shall in the opinion of the council be injurious to the progress of the students or to the interests of the University."

"No professor shall sit in Parliament or become a member of any political association; nor shall he (without the sanction of the council) give private instruction or deliver lectures to persons not being students of the University."

UNIVERSITY AND FREE SPEECH

In the Perth letter in "The Advertiser" yesterday, Professor Murdoch was quoted as having said:—"I do not see why we should copy a mistake made by the Adelaide University." He was opposing the adoption of a regulation governing the tenure of office and duties of University teachers, then being discussed by the Perth University Senate, and, it was said, was attempting to protect professors and lecturers against the danger of dismissal for expressing opinions obnoxious to members of the Senate. The Registrar of the Adelaide University (Mr. F. W. Eardley) said yesterday that he was at a loss to understand the exact purport of the statement of Professor Murdoch. No professor or teacher of the Adelaide University had been dismissed for expressing his opinion on any subject. It was probable that Professor Murdoch was referring to the provisions in the statutes of the University, which set out that the council might, at its discretion, dismiss or suspend a professor whose continuance in office was considered injurious to the progress of the students, or the interests of the University. It was further provided that no professor, without permission, should be a member of Parliament, become a member of a political association, or give private instruction, or deliver lectures to persons who were not students of the University.

News 19-10-33

RHODES SCHOLAR FOR 1933

Last Day of Entry Tomorrow

RESULT NEXT MONTH

Applications for the 1933 Rhodes Scholarship will close tomorrow, and the successful candidate will be announced towards the end of next month.

The selection committee consists of the Governor, Sir George Murray, Profs. R. W. Chapman and W. K. Hancock, and Messrs. J. R. Fowler, C. T. Madigan, and R. J. Rudall, M.P. Mr. Harry Thomson K.C., who died last night, was also a member of the committee. Prof. Hancock and Messrs. Madigan and Rudall are former Rhodes Scholars. The successful applicant will be announced following the usual meeting at Government House, where candidates are interviewed.

The Rhodes Scholarship is the greatest prize of its kind open to the English-speaking student. It is tenable at the University of Oxford, and is held normally for three years. The value is £400 a year.

"Since, however, the majority of Rhodes scholars obtain 'standing,' which makes it possible for them to take a degree in two years, appointments are made for two years in the first instance," states the calendar of the Adelaide University. "A Rhodes scholar who may wish to hold his scholarship for the third year will be expected to present a definite line of study for that period satisfactory to his college and to the Rhodes trustees."

BASIS OF SELECTION

The main basis for selection is guided by the opinion expressed by Mr. Cecil Rhodes that his scholars should have the following four groups of qualities, the first two being the most important:—

1. Literary and scholastic ability and attainments.
2. Qualities of manhood, truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness, and fellowship.
3. Exhibition during school days of moral force of character, and of instincts to lead and take an interest in his schoolmates.
4. Fondness for, and success in many outdoor sports, such as cricket, football, and the like.

Awards in the last five years have been F. W. Wagner, J. H. Reynolds, B. W. Hone, L. C. Wilcher, Dr. Grian Macgrath, and E. W. Gray.