

UNIVERSITY'S BIG DAY

Picturesque Conferring Of Degrees PAGEANT OF LEARNING

For more than an hour a stream of graduates, men and women, passed across the platform to receive degrees at the commemoration ceremony at Elder Hall yesterday. In one instance the hood of a Bachelor of Arts was worn over a nun's robes, and a girl in a wheeled chair came from the back of the platform to be declared a Bachelor of Music.

The graduates were admitted to degrees by the Chancellor (Sir George Murray), who referred to the death of Mr. Raymond Cooper on the eve of attaining his Master of Arts degree, and he tendered sympathy to his relatives.

Professor J. A. Prescott, who is acting as director of the Waite Institute for Agricultural Research, was admitted as a Doctor of Science. "Professor Prescott has been admitted on the recommendation of Sir Daniel



SIR GEORGE MURRAY, Chancellor of the University, entering Elder Hall yesterday.

Hall and Sir John Russell, two of the most eminent living authorities on the subject which Professor Prescott chose for his thesis," said the Chancellor.

Professor Kerr Grant had the pleasure of presenting to the Chancellor as a "fit and proper person" to be admitted to the honors degree of Bachelor of Science his son, Mr. Colin Kerr Grant. "I hardly know whether to offer the heartier congratulations to Mr. Kerr Grant on receiving his degree or to his father on presenting him," the Chancellor said.

The degree of Doctor of Music, the third to be presented by examination in the Adelaide University, was conferred on Dr. Alex. Burnard. The Chancellor congratulated him on having obtained his degree with great distinction.

Picturesque Procession

A picturesque procession of University dignitaries, headed by the Clerk of the Senate, preceded the ceremony. The University mace was carried before the Chancellor by this year's Rhodes scholar, Mr. T. S. Dorsch.

The Chancellor reported that the director of the Waite Institute for Agricultural Research (Dr. A. E. V. Richardson) who had been invited by the Commonwealth Government to be a member of the Australian delegation to the Ottawa Conference, had had his leave extended to enable him to gather the latest information in Europe and America on the problems with which the institute was concerned.

"The most noteworthy event during the year was the opening by the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) of the Barr Smith Library, presented by Mr. T. E. Barr Smith in memory of his father," the Chancellor said. "It now contains 100,000 books, additions having been seriously hampered by the primage duty imposed by the Federal Parliament, which, fortunately, has been removed."

Another building in course of erection was the chemical building to bear the name of the late Captain R. L. ... the Chancellor said.

would not have been possible to begin this work so soon but for a grant of £12,000 for labor costs from the Unemployment Relief Council. Cost of material and equipment would be borne by the University until the property in Waymouth street given by Captain Johnson's executors could be satisfactorily realised. It would be ready for occupation in February and would contain a lecture room named in honor of the late Professor Rennie. Tenders would be called early next year for the great hall provided by Sir Langdon Bonython. It would be built on North terrace, facing Pulteney street.

Grants And Bequests

Dealing with the work of the Waite Institute, he said that the progress report on mineral deficiency in Australian pastures had received the high commendation of the Empire Marketing Board, which had made a further grant for the continuance of research. The Imperial Chemical Industries Company had also renewed its contribution for the conduct of experiments in the application of nitrogenous fertilisers to Australian soils. The Carnegie Corporation had forwarded a further donation of £500 towards the support of a co-operative programme in adult education, and the money was being applied to the purchase of additional books for the Workers' Educational Association lending library.

Another expedition under the auspices of the Board for Anthropological Research was made to Central Australia under the leadership of Professor J. B. Cleland, to which Advertiser Newspapers, Limited, had contributed £100. The result had not been fully worked out, but it was understood that much valuable information was obtained. He referred, also, to the bequest of the late Mr. Fred Johns for a biographical scholarship, and expressed the gratitude of the council for this and other gifts.

"The Rhodes Scholar for the year is Mr. Theodor Siegfried Dorsch," said the Chancellor. "He is the thirtieth to have been elected from this State and will not, I am confident, fall short of the high standard set by his predecessors."

"University A Self Governing Body"

The Chancellor closed with an exhortation to the graduates to take part in the governing of the University. "The University is a self-governing body," he said, "and it is for the younger generation of graduates to take up the burden of its administration as the older men drop out. We for I include myself—should feel a sense of endless obligation to those who have brought the institution to its present state of efficiency. We have received from them a splendid heritage, and it is our duty, individually and collectively, to maintain and add to it, with vision tempered by discretion, so that in due course it may take its rank among the famous universities of the world."

Adv. 15-12-32

EDUCATION AT CROSS ROADS

St. Peter's Headmaster On Need For Changes SERVICE CAREERS Plan Being Prepared

Two educational questions of importance—a new curriculum and finding positions for boys—were discussed by the Headmaster of St. Peter's College (the Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth) in his annual report, presented at the college break-up at the Memorial Hall yesterday.

He said he hoped the old idea was disappearing that a boy was more respectably employed "pushing a pen" than in a manual occupation. In such a democratic country as Australia such a gospel should not fall on deaf ears, but Victorian standards of respectability died hard.

Mr. Bickersteth, who said that there were certain fields of service which few, if any, St. Peter's College boys ever entered, gave a report on a conference of headmasters of leading Australian non-departmental secondary schools, which had pointed out to the Federal Government the need for making it possible for more boys educated at schools like St. Peter's College to enter the civil service. At the request of the Government the confer-

ence was preparing a scheme in conjunction with the Civil Service Commissioner to put before Cabinet.

Mr. Bickersteth said that a deputation, consisting of the headmasters of Prince Alfred College (Mr. Ward) and Scotch College (Mr. Gratton) and himself recently waited upon the Director of Education (Mr. Adey), and met at his office some of the leading members of the educational profession in the Education Department, to discuss this whole question, in relation to the State Civil Service.

"It will interest parents to know that the whole situation is being carefully explored by the educational authorities here, so that a door may be opened through which more boys educated at schools like ours may find a useful career in the civil services in the State as well as in the Federal Government," Mr. Bickersteth said.

Need For Workshops

As regards changes in curriculum, Mr. Bickersteth said that during the depression the need for providing properly equipped workshops had become clear. Into these workshops they could turn their boys, so that they could train their minds through their hands.

Educationists were faced with many serious problems on changes in curriculum, which could be summarised as follows:—

1. The difficulty of coping with the ever-increasing number of subjects which modern needs demand should be placed in the school curriculum.
2. The tendency for the standards of all school subjects to be constantly advanced in order to prepare pupils to absorb the ever-increasing amount of knowledge constantly being added to each subject.
3. How best to separate in our schools the teaching and general curriculum of those whose future lies in the professions and at the University, from those who need less specialised knowledge and who on leaving school will start to earn their living.

Beset With Difficulty

"Under these insistent modern demands," said Mr. Bickersteth, "the old sound liberal secondary education which prepared boys and girls on leaving school either for the University or for earning their livelihood becomes increasingly difficult to provide."

"There are still many who advocate the old classical education as a splendid basis for all subsequent branches of knowledge, and they have many sound arguments on their side, but the time available makes this impossible, because of the variety of subjects which are forever pressing lower and lower into the elementary stages of education."

"The time will soon come when this important question of a suitable revision of our school curriculum must be faced. It will need the hand of an expert, and we must do our best to prepare the way for him."

Bible In School Life

Mr. Bickersteth also made an appeal to parents to take pains over the religious education of their children. "We are ignoring to a large extent one of the most valuable humanising subjects, the Bible, which, if properly taught, will do much to prepare our children to face the problems of modern life," he said.

The need of the day was a fresh discovery of the Bible, such as altered the whole outlook of the people of Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries.

"We are dealing today with a people who are almost ignorant of this great series of books," he said, and added that there was no finer basis of a liberal education than in the Bible. There was a lack of Bible knowledge among boys who entered the school, but if he interpreted the times aright, he saw a growing interest in the community as a whole in the need for placing a renewed emphasis upon spiritual values. Modern science could not save the world from self-destruction.

GOVERNMENT URGED TO ACT

Professor's Report Recommended

The chairman of the council of the Presbyterian Girls' College (Dr. C. Duguid), speaking at the speech night of the college in the Norwood Town Hall last night, said that last year Professor McKellar Stewart had furnished the Government with a report on the State educational system, which, if adopted in its entirety, would raise that system immeasurably, and with it the status of the teacher. As that report had the Scottish system in mind, it was a short step to a Board of Education, which would be responsible for the Intermediate and the Leaving Certificate examinations.

"At present the professors and the lecturers of the University set these papers, and I am sure they will be glad to be relieved of this work," Dr. Duguid said. "A professor's duty is to stimulate special students along special lines and to devote the rest of his

time to research along highly specialised lines. By their special training most professors become unfitted to set papers for the average school pupil, and now that the Intermediate certificate is regarded as the necessary minimum for entrance to almost every calling, the time has come to make some change in the examination system in South Australia.

"My preference is to have these examinations controlled by a board, the members of which shall be fully trained teachers with good University records and several years' experience of actual teaching of school children. That would leave the University free to set its matriculation examination for those students who wish to pursue a University course.

"Until some such system is adopted these annual complaints will recur and I would strongly recommend the incoming Government, of next year to recover the document already referred to, and to call on Professor McKellar Stewart to supplement it by a report on our examination system.

"Surely it is only commonsense to use such an able educationalist as we have in our midst, even to the extent of temporarily freeing him from his present duties to serve the State in this wider sphere."

News 15-12-32

PROFESSOR PRAISES OUR UNIVERSITIES

LONDON, December 14.—The vice-chancellor of the Sydney University (Prof. R. S. Wallace), who is touring England, says that Australian universities compare favorably with those in the northern provinces of England.

He will visit Prof. Wilson at Cambridge for the week-end, and will then go to Old College, Oxford, before leaving on a tour of Scottish universities.

Adv. 16-12-32

PICKED STUDENTS FOR CIVIL SERVICE

Need For Special Inducements

RECOGNITION IN S.A.

Education Director's Views

Additional details of the proposals outlined by the Headmaster of St. Peter's College (Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth) at the college speech day on Wednesday, were given yesterday by the Director of Education (Mr. Adey), who said that it would deal a fatal blow at merit not to have in the public service channels by which those with qualifications above the ordinary might advance to important responsible positions.

While the scheme to provide these openings was, to a large extent, in the preliminary stages, Mr. Adey said, definite progress was being made. The object was to provide avenues in the Federal and State public services for the more brilliant students from the higher educational institutions, which should be a valuable recruiting ground.

"But special inducements must be offered to get these specially-qualified young people in," Mr. Adey said. "They spend, say, three or four years at a University, following possibly five years at a college or high school, and it is unfair to expect them to start at about £60 a year."

Present Progress

"The scheme we are suggesting is the only way in which the public services of Australia can be recruited. It is being done largely at present in the professional branches, such as engineering and mining. The professional and administrative officers of the Education Department have come from the ranks of the teaching staffs.

"The idea is to give fitting inducements to students of high merit to devote their lives to the public service. It is already operating in this State, to a limited extent. The principle has been recognised. A boy with the leaving certificate is put on the second, instead of the first, rung of the ladder. So, in a small way, merit and education are acknowledged. There is in the service today a body of young men with exceptional qualifications."

Reports to Governments

Mr. Adey said that he had had only one conference so far with the headmasters of the colleges and officers of the Federal and State services. There was still much to be done to complete