

Continued

would have been impossible. Having briefly explained their several uses he drew attention to a number of objects lying on the table before him. These included a couple of match-boxes in which were concealed, from all but the "X rays," an open knife, a couple of pairs of spectacles, two little stars—one of aluminium and the other of lead—a safety pin, and an indiarubber ring. Mr. Moir placed his hand on the table among these objects, and the rays were turned on. Concealed immediately under the table, next to the wood, was a dead mouse, also in a matchbox. The rays were kept on these objects for eight minutes. These rays are opal in shade, and they were reflected on to the objects to be photographed by a diminutive platinum plate. The tube in which they were developed was situated about 6 in. above the object to be photographed, and this object was rested on an ordinary camera plate receiver, which of course did not allow light to reach the sensitive plate. The plate being under the wooden frame was in no way exposed, and the photo or shadow was taken through the wood, the more opaque portions, such as bones, showing more distinctly than flesh, which is to a certain extent transparent. Whilst Messrs. S. Barbour and W. T. Rowe were developing the plates, Professor Bragg traced the history of the discovery of "X rays" through the scientific successes of Faraday, Crooke, and Lenard to the ultimate triumph of Professor Röntgen. A home scientist had lately stated that he obtained a very fine outline of the bones in a hand after an exposure to the rays lasting six seconds; and another, Professor Lodge, of Liverpool, had seen objects through two human bodies one behind the other. In Adelaide, however, they had only one of Crooke's tubes, and they did not care to risk experimenting with it lest it should break. The learned lecturer said he felt somewhat diffident as to the result achieved by their experiments, as the night was damp, but his fears proved groundless when the photos were thrown upon the large screen prepared. In every instance the outlines of the more opaque objects were clearly defined. Even the bones, limbs, and tail of the mouse beneath the table were shown. The lecture and experiments were extremely interesting, and will probably be repeated in the Town Hall on Tuesday. A fixture has been arranged for the delivery of the lecture in the Brougham-place Lecture-hall, North Adelaide, on Tuesday, June 23.

ADELAIDE HOSPITAL
BOARD.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

RESIDENT SENIOR SURGEON AND PHYSICIAN.

The ordinary meeting of the Adelaide Hospital Board was held at the Boardroom on Friday afternoon. Present—The Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. C. Tucker, Chairman; Hon. A. R. Addison, M.L.C., Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C., Messrs. C. Lyons, W. H. Wadey, A. Spence, and W. G. Coombs, Drs. Rogers, Curtis, and Hill, and Mesdames Nicholls, Cullen, Darling, and Parkin, and the Secretary, Mr. H. D. Haggard.

The following reply from the Chief Secretary to the minute sent to him from the Board recommending the Government that steps should be immediately taken to satisfactorily assure the students of the Medical School that no pains or expense would be spared by the Government to continue the school, &c., was read:—

I note that the Council of the University have made arrangements for clinical instruction to medical students. The Government are fully alive to the importance of maintaining the Medical School efficiently, and will be glad to co-operate with the Hospital Board and the University Council for that purpose.—J. V. O'L., C.S.

Mr. LYONS thought the matter should be dealt with. He moved—

That a copy of the letter from the Board to the Government, with the resolution passed at the last meeting *re* the Medical School, together with a copy of the reply from the Government, be sent at once to the University, with a request that they will intimate to this Board in what way the willingness of the Government to co-operate in preserving the efficiency of the Medical School can be availed of, and that a sub-committee of three be appointed to meet the University on the subject. He thought from the tone of the letter the Government, as well as the public, were now fully awake to the importance of preserving this school in its thorough efficiency. The matter would not be felt so much this year, but next year if some important step was not taken so as to keep the school together in its present strong position the effect would probably be very serious indeed. If what he moved was done, some suggestions might be the outcome which would probably reduce the difference between the Government and the University and preserve the school, which he thought was the wish of every individual member of the committee.

Dr. CURTIS seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Chairman and Messrs. Addison, Wadey, and Lyons were appointed a sub-committee in pursuance of the motion.

The following minute was read from the Chief Secretary regarding the appointment of Resident Medical Superintendent:—

The Government in approving of the appointment of Dr. Russell as Medical Superintendent of the Adelaide Hospital would point out that in view of the proposal to appoint a senior resident surgeon and a senior resident physician it will probably be necessary to revise the regulations governing the duties of the Medical Superintendent and the resident staff, so that no difficulty may arise as to their relative powers and duties. I have mentioned the matter to Dr. Russell.

The CHAIRMAN said that the Government did not think it would be well to have Dr. Russell senior to the resident surgeon and physician, and though they did not anticipate anything it would be just as well to provide against any possible case of friction. The minute was received.

Several applications regarding the senior resident surgeon and senior resident physician were, on the motion of Dr. Curtis, considered in committee. After discussion the applications were referred to the sub-committee, who, in conjunction with the Government, were doing all that was necessary in the matter of the Honorary Medical Staff. The applications will remain on the table for perusal of members. The name of Dr. Curtis was added to the committee.

The Secretary to the South Australian Allgemeiner Deutscher Verein, Mr. A. Timmann, wrote enclosing cheque for £3 contributions. The writer added—

At last Monday's meeting of our Society the amount was passed, and satisfaction was expressed unanimously at the change made in the government of the Hospital and the working thereof.

Received. Other contributions included Onkaparinga Racing Club, £10; executors late J. Dunn (second amount), £200; and Port Adelaide Working Men's Association, £21.

The Rev. W. B. Andrews wrote from St. Bartholomew's Parsonage, Norwood, as follows:—

Dear Sir—I herewith return one in and six out forms of orders for the Adelaide Hospital, which have been forwarded to me as a late subscriber by Mr. J. Adamson, the collector. I regret that I am compelled to withhold any further subscription so long as the late medical staff shall be prevented by the arbitrary and deplorable action of the present Government from giving their invaluable services to that excellent institution. So far as my judgment goes the Hospital in its present condition is bereft of that which can give anything like restful confidence to the public, and I am anxiously awaiting the time when that confidence shall be restored. Meanwhile I take this opportunity as a citizen and a late subscriber of expressing my indignant disapproval of the present course pursued by those in power.

The letter was received.

The Medical Superintendent's report for two weeks ended April 30:—Patients admitted, 70; discharged, 56; died, 8; now in Hospital, 224; out-patients treated, 515, of whom 89 were new. Causes of death:—Calculoses cystitis, carcinoma ventriculi, febris enterica (3), senility, miliary tuberculosis, lobar pneumonia. There were 21 cases of typhoid fever in the institution.

The Register.

ADELAIDE: FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1896.

THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The skill and knowledge brought to bear by the modern medical profession upon the mighty task of alleviating human suffering and averting the attacks of many forms of diseases are in striking contrast to the ignorant misrepresentation to which as a body medical men are frequently subjected. Dean Swift satirised the medicos of his day by declaring that, like Apollo, who, not without reason, had been recognised by the ancients as at once the god of physic and the bringer of diseases, these gentlemen still acted in the same double capacity. There may still be occasions on which the efforts of the physician or surgeon to eradicate disease in one direction deleteriously affect the health of the patient in some other respect, but these, in the present age of increased knowledge and of skilled specialism, are gradually being reduced to a minimum. No one can read the able and instructive address delivered on Thursday by Dr. T. K. Hamilton as President of the South Australian Section of the British Medical Association without noting particularly how admirably the labours of the modern specialist work in with those of the general practitioner in enabling him to relieve pain and to promote a healthy tone in the human body. In the last century both children and adults suffered just as much as they do at the present day from the diseases of the nose and throat mentioned by Dr. Hamilton. The air passages become narrowed and contracted, either by growths of the body itself or by separate living organisms, such as polypi, and the supply of oxygen admitted to the lungs being thus greatly diminished, especially during sleep, the patient became affected by what may be called a species of air starvation, resulting in general debility and lassitude. In

bygone days the disciple of Æsculapius, in treating such a case, might have talked learnedly about the flux of humours and administered mysterious boluses that did more harm than good, but not knowing the true cause of the evil he really had no chance whatever of finally remedying it.