

"There are still things we can learn from South Australia. I have been across to see your children's library. I was piloted there by Mr. Roach, and introduced to Miss Whitham, who is most enthusiastic and well acquainted with the duties entrusted to her. It was fine on Saturday afternoon to see the table surrounded by boys and girls. I intend to make a report specially on that subject to the Minister of Education in Victoria, and to bring the scheme under the notice of the library trustees and the Chief Librarian. So far as I know, this library in South Australia is unique. One section I looked at carefully was that devoted to schools and teaching. The books have been well selected, and I am hopeful that the library authorities will be able to devise some means of making that collection available as a circulating library among the country teachers. It would give the splendid idea enhanced value. I spent a couple of hours this morning in the North Adelaide School with very much pleasure. Although it was a holiday, Mr. Berriman, the head teacher, came and showed me the various teaching devices and equipment. I think it is a highly creditable teaching workshop that North Adelaide School. This afternoon I went to a meeting of the Rural Teachers' Association, and gave them a few words, I hope, of encouragement and stimulus.

—From Queensland.—

"With me on the Melbourne express on Saturday were two delegates from the Queensland Teachers' Union — Messrs. Thomas Fielding (President and head teacher of the Sherwood State School), and W. F. Bevington (Vice-President, and head teacher of the Woolloowin School). Delegates from Queensland came here two years ago to a conference, and they received so much good, and were able to take away so many fine ideas, that the department there decided to send representatives again."

*Advertises June 30/15-*

Professor Thomas Hudson Beare, B.A., B.Sc., M. Inst. C.E., M. Inst. M.E., will celebrate the fifty-sixth anniversary of his birth to-day. He is a son of the late Mr. T. H. Beare, of Netley, South Australia, and was born in this State. He was educated at Prince Alfred College and the Adelaide University, and in 1880 he gained the South Australian scholarship and proceeded to England. In 1887 he was appointed Professor of Engineering in Heriot-Watt College, and in 1889 he joined the staff of the London University College—an institution at which he had previously studied—as professor. The learned South Australian has held the Regius Professorship of Engineering at the Edinburgh University since 1901.

*Advertises June 30/15.*

## HISTORY MUST REPEAT ITSELF.

### THE "CULTURE" OF THE ATHENIANS.

#### WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR.

Professor Darnley Naylor, speaking at the public meeting in connection with the Teachers' Conference last evening, asked what the ideal was that they aimed at in education. The American would answer with that blessed word "efficiency." That word savored too much of technical skill, however. All the technical skill in the world would not make a person or a nation trusted and loved. It might provide the latest in engines of murder and destruction, but it would not win allies at a nation's need. (Cheers.) Efficiency implied knowledge and skill, but surely education comprised something else, and that something else was culture, spelt with a "C." Education, in his opinion, meant knowledge, skill, and culture, but the greatest of these was culture. When a nation was affected with hubris—the word denoted utter callousness about the feelings of others, and implied outrage and insult—they saw that type of patriotism which had brought about the horrible war in Europe. True culture and hubris could not live together. When Athens



became more interested in trade than in culture, she, too, was afflicted with hubris. Once she had been the head of the great league formed to keep Persia out of Europe. The members of that league were at first free and independent, each supplying ships and men. Soon the members substituted payment for the men, and Athens became a tyrant. She quickly began to regard herself as without superior in the Greek world, and entered upon a mission of atticising everyone else, of imposing her "culture," as she called it, on all and sundry. As a matter of fact, she was really seeking fresh fields for trade and fresh sources of revenue. Her culture was actually gone, for she ended by exiling Euripides and murdering Socrates. He would illustrate the effect of hubris, or national swelled head, by an incident in Athenian history in the year 416 B.C. The Island of Milo, in that year, was inhabited by a happy and prosperous community. The islanders were of Spartan origin, but had remained strictly neutral during the great war between Sparta and Athens. Neutrality was not, however, to the liking of the Athenians, and after the war had been raging for some 15 years they determined to compel Melos, as the island was then called, to join in the fun and on their side. They sent an expedition to the island and demanded instant submission. They had preserved for them the diplomatic conversations between the Athenian and Melian representatives. There was a brutal egoism about the Athenian envoys which would have delighted the soul of a Bernhardt. (Laughter.) Some of the specimens were—"In human reckoning the question of justice come up only when pressure of necessity is equal on both sides; in practice the stronger exact what they can, and the weak concede what they must." Another was, "By choosing submission you will escape a terrible fate, and as you will become our subjects we shall be gainers by sparing your lives." Finally, "The more you stake vital interests on the security of Sparta and of God, the more complete will be your downfall." Of such was the kingdom of hubris. The Athenians massacred all the Melians of military age, sold the women and children into slavery, and occupied the island themselves with 500 colonists. The Melians, like the Belgians, fell like martyrs, but before two years had passed Athens had met irreparable disaster in Sicily, and in nine more years her Empire had gone forever. The moral was too obvious to need comment. He hoped God would grant that history would repeat itself. But the prayer was needless. History must repeat itself, for in the end justice and righteousness prevailed, not sometimes, but always. (Cheers.)

#### Two Ideals of Government.

The attempts that were being made to picture this war as a racial struggle between British and Teuton were doomed to failure. As far as race was concerned, the war was little better than a civil war, since Germany and England both belonged to the Teutonic family. He most earnestly deprecated the effort to stir up racial hatreds. With Sir William Ramsay, he believed that unreasoning racial dislikes were a mark of national decadence. This was a war not between races but between two ideals of government—the despotic and the democratic. The main question with which political science dealt was whether the community existed for the individual or the individual for the community. Germany had decided for the latter view, and had pushed her decision to extremes. The British, if anything, had erred in the other direction. But when they talked of British freedom, what they really meant was that with them the individual was allowed largely to go his own way, and that the State interfered with him as little as was compatible with the safety of the community. It was for that precious heritage the British were fighting, and in no sense because they hated the German people on the grounds of race. He loved the British freedom, but if, when all the men in that room—and it might come to that—had made the great sacrifice, if when that had happened their sons were to have a British civilisation moulded on the German pattern—a British civilisation, arrogant, supercilious, and Prussianised—then, though Berlin be levelled with the ground, Germany had won the day, and all the British sacrifices in blood and treasure had been utterly in vain. If Germany would but alter her constitution, would but free herself from the despotism of Prussian militarists, then, when the really guilty, however high in place, had been punished, when Belgium had been avenged and indemnified, all lovers of human progress would welcome with a joy almost passionate the sweet music of peace as she greeted the dawning of a better day. But before that could be there was grim work to do, and done it would be if the very heavens fell. (Loud cheers.)



Advertisements June 30/15

## ROMANCE IN MEDICINE.

### THYROID INVESTIGATIONS.

The first of a course of three lectures on romance in medicine was delivered by Dr. J. C. Verco before a large audience in the Prince of Wales lecture theatre at the University last night. The subject was the thyroid gland. The lecturer explained that the thyroid gland, which was not confined to mankind, but was found in the lower animals, was situated in front of the neck. He traced the steps of scientific investigation of the thyroid. Individuals, he said, were found with enlarged thyroids, and a person without a thyroid gland at all was discovered. Enlarged thyroids were removed from suffering persons, but it was found that those who had undergone this operation fell into a state of ill-health. Felix Simon, in his generalisation, indicated that such symptoms pointed to the fact that the thyroid gland had a function to perform, whatever that function might be. The Clinical Society of London appointed a committee to investigate the whole matter. Sir Victor Horsley made experiments with monkeys, and by vivisection it was proved that the ill-health was due to the loss of the thyroid. But relief was to come. Horsley suggested a remedy. An experiment was made, and it was found that a grafted thyroid could perform the natural function. Sheep's thyroid glands were grafted on to patients, and relief was given, but the thyroid without its natural surroundings wasted away, and the last state of the patient was worse than the first. This indicated to Mr. G. R. Murray that some substance was secreted by the thyroid. He suggested hypodermic administrations of thyroid extracts as a remedy. It was found that this method, employing the extract from sheep thyroids, was successful. In some cases abscesses were formed as the result of the injections, and the point arose how the extract could be otherwise introduced. Thyroid gland was minced and made into a sandwich, and a lady to whom it was administered was cured in three weeks. But this form was not convenient, and the next step was the preparation of an extract. The gland was ground into powder and compressed into tiny tablets, in which form it retained its curative properties in perpetuity. Thus the disease arising from deficient thyroid secretion could be cured. A person, whose condition in former years would have meant early death, could now be completely cured. Did not this sound like a romance? The thyroid gland furnished an internal secretion, and this fact suggested a wider field of investigation. Experiments were made in connection with other ductless glands, and productions prompt and wonderful in their powers were obtained. Symptoms of an opposite order, resulting from too much secretion from the thyroid, were known. In these cases the thyroid gland was enlarged, and the remedy was to remove a part of the gland or to lessen its blood supplies. This had been done surgically. Could they find antidotal properties, surgical operations would not be necessary. With such a production the enlarged thyroid might be reduced. He wondered whether success lay in that direction. It rested with the medical students of the day to find out. In his lecture Dr. Verco mentioned that thyroid troubles had produced cretins or dwarfed persons. Sporadic cretinism could be overcome by the remedy he had outlined. ❧