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PRODUCING A VACUUM.

The first of a series of six demonstrations in modern physics will be given at the Adelaide University on Friday. The subject of the demonstrations will be the action of a remarkable pump for producing the highest attainable vacuum. This pump, the "Langmuir condensation pump," was invented recently by Dr. Irving Langmuir, the distinguished American scientist, and is used exclusively in the factory of the General Electric Company for the production of Coolidge X-ray bulbs at Schenectady, New York. Other demonstrations will be held monthly, the subjects proposed being:—Liquid air, spectroscopy, X rays, high frequency electric oscillations, and wireless telephony. Persons desiring to attend are invited to apply to the professor of physics at the University for tickets of admission.

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THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The first of a series of lectures on the League of Nations was given at the University on Tuesday evening by Professor Coleman Phillipson. There was a good attendance. At the outset the lecturer referred to the great necessity for an international organization, owing to the fact that the interdependence of nations meant that without co-operation between them strife was the only alternative. The effect of the last war was awful enough; but chemists had said recently that in another struggle such potent explosives would be used as would bring about almost universal slaughter. In a future war there would be no neutrals, the whole world would be drawn into it, and the victorious party would suffer as much as the victims. All knew how victors and vanquished had suffered in and from the last war. The promotion of peace schemes was as old as war itself, and followed upon every war. Every one in the world during the past campaign had averred that war should never occur again, but that peace should be established for ever. Now, however, people seemed to forget all about the horrors and had apparently lost their interest in the League of Nations, which was established for the preservation of peace. The professor then referred to the calamitous happenings to the State, the individual, and the social and international fabrics of life brought about by the last war, and said the only hope was the establishment of a compulsory international organization. To bring this about there must be public interest and enlightenment. All Australians were closely concerned, for their country was committed to the League, she had her representatives and responsibilities, and had a very important mandate committed to her. The "white Australia" scheme made the policy of the Commonwealth a very important and an anxious one, and was a matter for gratification that behind Australia there would be not only the Empire, but also the League of Nations. Mingled with the provisions of the league were numbers which were of vital importance to this country.

On the question of the relation of the League to previous proposals and efforts to establish a peaceful society of nations, he said that, although in the past those who had enunciated the doctrine of a society for peace were looked upon as idle dreamers, none of their schemes even closely approximated the proposals now put forward. The lecturer traced the peace movement from its initiation in the times of the ancient Greeks and Romans, through the middle ages, and up to comparatively modern times. He said that the early days there was frequently some ultimate ulterior objective in the minds of the framers of the proposals, and this was responsible for many of the failures. Nearly all the proposals related only to Europe, and some of them went even so far as to suggest the States into which the Continent should be divided. All were propounded right in the midst of war, when those who realized the horrors tried to enlighten the people; but in those days the difficulties of communicating with the uneducated people were too great. Many of the articles were similar to some in the League of Nations to-day, and especially those relating to the reduction of armaments and the necessity for armed forces to be kept merely for the control of internal affairs. There were scoffers in those days, as there were at the present time, and the greatest difficulties were met with by those endeavouring to secure peace. Wars went on just the same, and did so principally to preserve what was known as the balance of power. The League of Nations knew that the first work was to throw overboard that principle and to introduce a scheme of international arbitration. He concluded by referring to the Hague conferences, and said the chief causes of failure there were that the arbitration between contesting countries was

not compulsory, and that there was not sufficient sanction. The question of reduction of armaments had failed, for, as Germany had refused to limit her armaments, Great Britain had to limit her naval power. Seeing that all the schemes in the past had failed, could it be said that the present one had a better chance of success? It had, and chiefly because the factors that had made for past failures had been removed. Now all the nations were bound together by solidarity and interdependence, communication and means of transport were such as had never existed before, means of slaughter were so great as to terrify every one, the principle of balance of power was admitted to be injurious to the best interests of the world; the European concert was doomed to end, and there was now a universal demand for law and order. The league was

now established and doing good work, but it was essential that every one should get to know all about it, and support it until the peace habit should for ever replace the war habit, which had existed in the past. The second lecture of the series will be delivered next Tuesday.

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The engagement of Professor W. L. Bragg, O.B.E., the brilliant South Australian scientist, and Miss Hopkinson, of Cambridge, has been announced (states The British-Australasian). Professor Bragg is a son of Sir William Bragg, K.B.E., and Lady Bragg, who are living in London at 32 Ladbroke square. Sir William Bragg's distinguished career as a scientist is well known, and his son is counted, by those competent to judge, as one of the cleverest men of the day in his particular line. In 1915 Sir William and Professor Bragg together carried off the Nobel Prize for work on X-rays and crystals. Sir William Bragg was a professor at the Adelaide University for over 20 years, and his son was born in Adelaide. He did valuable work during the war as technical adviser G.H.Q. in France, on sound ranging. Miss Hopkinson is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Albert Hopkinson, of 6 Adams road, Cambridge.

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RECEPTION AT SCHOOL OF MINES.

A reception by the President of the Council of the School of Mines and Industries (Sir Langdon Bonython) and Lady Bonython was tendered at Brookman Hall on Wednesday afternoon to the members of the conference. There was an attendance of between 300 and 400, and the gathering was of a most happy character. Unfortunately, owing to ill health, Lady Bonython was unable to be present, and regret was expressed in that connection. The guests were received by Sir Langdon Bonython and Mrs. Angus Parsons (his daughter). Among those present were the Premier (Hon. H. N. Barwell), the Minister of Education (Hon. G. Ritchie), the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. W. Hague), the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. G. Laffer), Sir George Brookman, Sir Richard Butler, Sir Joseph Verco, the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy) and other departmental heads of the Education Department, and representatives of its inspectorial staff, the President of the Teachers' Union (Mr. T. H. S. Nicolle), the Immediate Past President of the Union (Mr. J. Moses), Professors Henderson, Mitchell, Phillipson, Kerr Grant, Osborn, Chapman, Wilton, Rennie, and Perkins, Dr. Jethro Brown (President of the Industrial Court), the Hon. D. J. Gordon, M.L.C. (President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce), Mr. A. E. Clarkson (President of the S.A. Chamber of Commerce), Mr. W. R. Bayly (Principal of Prince Alfred College), members of the council of the School of Mines, the Principal of the Institution (Mr. F. W. Reid), and Messrs. J. Braithwaite (President of the Victorian Union), A. R. Vroland (ex-President of the Victorian Union), L. D. Edwards (Vice-President of the Queensland Union), and W. Geraghty (secretary of the Queensland Union). Afternoon tea was served and social chat indulged in. The pleasure of the function was enhanced by selections by a string band, and songs by Miss Una Andrew, A.M.U.A., and Mr. Arnold Ashworth, the pianoforte accompaniments for which were played by Miss Lily Sara, A.M.U.A.

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Mrs. Simpson, widow of Mr. A. M. Simpson, died on Tuesday evening at her residence, Young House, Parkside. She was a daughter of the late Dr. John Sheridan, formerly editor of the London "Morning Advertiser." Mrs. Simpson's mother, who long survived Dr. Sheridan, was a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Daniel Keith, chaplain to the Duke of Kent, the father of Queen Victoria. Dr. Sheridan had two brothers, the late Mr. Reginald Sheridan, and the late Mr. J. B. Sheridan, for many years a barrister here, and a sister, Miss Keith Sheridan, of North Adelaide. Until illness prevented her, Mrs. Simpson took much interest in charitable works, notably the Blind, Deaf, and Dumb Institution at Brighton. More recently she established the Aviation Library at the Adelaide University in memory of Mr. A. M. Simpson, and also, with her stepdaughter, Mrs. C. H. Welch, she was responsible for the opening of the brush house at the Botanic Gardens.

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TO-DAY'S PROGRAMME.

An address will be delivered this morning by Mr. Geraghty (secretary of the Queensland Teachers' Union), and this afternoon Professor Kerr Grant will give a demonstration in physics.

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THE TEACHERS' CONFERENCE AND PROFESSOR PHILLIPSON.

Professor Coleman Phillipson, M.A., LL.D., writes:—"I have heard a rumour that certain parts of my address to the Teachers' Conference last Monday evening were due to representations privately made to me by teachers. May I, through The Register, assure all whom I had the privilege to address, that not even the least suggestion was made to me by any one. All that was suggested to me was the title of my discourse, and nothing more. From the first it was my intention which, I think, I fully carried out on Monday evening) to deal with the subject broadly and generally, and without special reference to local conditions, claims, or grievances. It was far from my mind to touch upon anything that might savour of party politics. I never have been, and do not intend to be, a party politician. If I have any political leaning it is towards "conservatism," as expounded (say) by Edmund Burke. I believe with Plato that the government of a civilized State, and of every section of the community, ought to be in the hands of the "aristocracy"—using the term, of course, in its literal and true sense—namely, the men best fitted for the work. And, above all, I am a believer in constitutionalism, and detest every undertaking or proceeding that is vitiated by intimidation or the virus of Bolshevism. I have the pleasure of knowing several members (including the Premier) of the present South Australian Government; and I am quite sure that, though they have big tasks on their hands, they are not oblivious of the interests and the present-day importance of the teaching profession."

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

AN INVESTITURE

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Weigall held a reception at Government House on Thursday evening in honor of the visit of their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Forster. There was a brilliant gathering, and the guests were received by Lord and Lady Forster and Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall in the ballroom. The Chief Justice (the Hon. Sir George Murray, K.C.M.G.) and the Premier (Hon. H. N. Barwell) and members of the Ministry, with judges, knights and their ladies, took up positions behind their Excellencies. There were many guests, and the scene was a gay one.

The reception was the occasion of an investiture by the Governor-General, who presented the insignia of the British Empire Order to those who were honored by the King in October last.

Sir George Brookman, who received the insignia of knighthood, entered the ballroom, preceded by Captain Trail, A.D.C., and was presented to the Governor-General. His Excellency's military secretary (General Wheatley) read the warrant. The Governor-General then placed the ribbon of the order round the neck of Sir George Brookman and fastened the star of the order on his left breast. The new knight knelt, and the Governor-General, taking a sword, touched him lightly with it on each shoulder and said, "Arise, Sir George." The words were the signal for much applause. His Excellency shook hands with Sir George Brookman.

The military secretary announced the names of the other recipients, who advanced in turn and were decorated. Captain Trail handed to his Excellency the insignia, and the Governor-General bestowed them on the following:—

Officers of the Order of the British Empire.

Major Sir Douglas Mawson.
Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Russell.
Mr. V. H. Ryan.
Mrs. Minnie Agnes Good.

Members of the Order of the British Empire.

Major Harry L. S. Balfour-Ogilvie.
Major A. E. Hamilton.
Miss Florence Margaret Saunders.
Miss Ethel Erydna Wache.
Miss Eva Waite.

Military Cross.

Captain K. A. Duncan.

The ceremony was impressive. The staffs of the Governor-General and the State Governor, who were in attendance, did their part with military precision, both at the reception and investiture. There was a delightful informal formality about the proceedings, which maintained the stateliness of the ceremony without making it stiff. Their Excellencies were gracious and friendly and mingled with the guests, chatting kindly with all. Music was provided by Mr. J. Fewster's Orchestra. Supper was served with Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall's abundant hospitality, in a marquee on the southern lawn. The following is the list of invited guests:—

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The Angus Engineering Scholarship for 1921 has been awarded to Mr. Rowland Gilbert Robin, who obtained the degree of Bachelor of Engineering in 1920.