

vast amount of mischief. The jaws and first teeth have no proper chance of developing, as they would do if the hungry child were supplied with a fair amount of hard, bone-building foods. In the matter of nourishment, the baby too often labours under the serious disadvantage of being "bottle-fed" and afterwards unduly pampered with a soft dietary. In all the Australian States some facilities are now afforded or are in contemplation for the dental treatment of school children, but, as about 80 per cent. in the metropolitan areas alone have carious teeth, only a small proportion are likely to be dealt with in time to prevent lasting damage. The responsibility of parents and guardians in the matter cannot, therefore, be over-stressed. If an army "moves on its stomach," it is even more emphatically true that a healthy and well-equipped mouth is necessary to good digestion and a strong stomach capable of making use of the food partaken of.

Discoveries regarding the possibly fatal and always deleterious effects of diseased or "dead" teeth, as channels for the introduction of malignant bacteria into the human organism, should awaken the community to the wisdom of protecting themselves against charlatany and incompetency in dental practice. It is enough that large numbers of young people have been wrongly persuaded to part with natural teeth, in order to be fitted—for a substantial monetary consideration—with "false sets which will never ache." The case against blatant and unwarranted claims to skill in doing this or that in dentistry is now vastly stronger than ever before, and requires that the law shall clearly and definitely safeguard the public against all avoidable perils and blunders. Hitherto the disposition towards compromise has been altogether too marked, with results detrimental alike to the public and an indispensable profession. In the Mother Country the number of duly qualified dentists is very far short of requirements, owing to a lax law having allowed the ignorant and suffering public to be exploited by virtually untrained amateurs, who pose as efficient. As time passes more carefully devised laws, with improved and more widely disseminated and appreciated knowledge of health subjects, should ensure for skilled dental practice a position which will completely abolish unholy competition, and add greatly to the well-being and comfort of the rising race.

Register 23/8/21

**ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.**

**SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS' CONCERT.**

There is always a happy touch of personal interest about the audience at one of the students' concerts at the Conservatorium, and the eleventh concert of the 1921 session was no exception. One of the great advantages of study at a conservatorium is just this community of interest, and the opportunity the students have to test their powers, not only over voice or instrument, but over an audience—at once more difficult, and yet more responsive—for the real musician must be able to touch heart strings, and play upon human emotions if he or she is really to interpret great music and win lasting success. Each session, it may be safely stated, each concert proves how real a place the Elder

Conservatorium holds as centre of musical life in South Australia. The first number on the distinctly interesting programme was a pianoforte solo by Miss Muriel James, "Mere," by Balfour Gardiner, a descriptive writing, which she rendered with expression and effect. Miss Aila Zeyern was successful in her violin solo, "Souvenir," by Drla, charmingly quaint, and "The bee," by Schubert. Mr. Sable Grivell won hearty applause for his singing of the aria "Non piu Andria," from Mozart's "Nozze di Figaro." Miss Adele Wiebusch made her piano solo, "Tarentelle," Op. 27, by Moszkowski, one of the features of the evening. Her performance was marked by quiet sincerity and command over her instrument, her clear, crisp touch being especially noticeable in the runs. The character of the composition was excellently expressed throughout. Yet another "Tarentelle" followed—a violoncello solo played by Mr. Eric Gibbs—the "Tarentelle in D minor," by Squire. In his rendering of this Mr. Gibbs was distinctly happy. Miss Lorna Sidoli rendered the vocal solo, "The dreary steppe," by Grechaninov, with considerable feeling. Miss Lola Penalurick was successful in her presentation of a piano solo, "Three fairs, Nos. 2 and 6," by Coleridge Taylor. It is a pleasing feature of these concerts that organ music is taking its rightful place. Miss Isabel Tibbrook, in the "Fantasia sonata (first movement)," by Rhenberger, evinced a fine command of that king of musical instruments and of expression. Miss Alice Mallon is fortunate in the possession of a pure musical voice and a charmingly unaffected way of singing. It was a real pleasure to listen to her recit and aria, "Rebecca's prayer" (Ivanhoe), by Sullivan. Enunciation and expression were both good. Mr. Frank Holman, A.M.U.A., has not only crisp, effective technique, he has also expression, as he proved in his rendering of Chopin's "Polonaise in A flat, Op. 53." Miss Doreen Stoneman gave a tasteful interpretation of the violin solo, "Concerto, A minor,"

by de Beriot. Mr. Harry Green, with his good voice and clear enunciation, won hearty applause for his singing of Handel's famous song, "Honour and arms" (Samson), to which he imparted just the right dramatic feeling. The programme was concluded with a pianoforte solo, "Concerto, A minor," first movement, by Greig, in which Mr. Alex. Bernard fully caught the distinctive character of the music. Mr. George Pearce was at the second piano. Mr. Harold Wyde, F.R.C.O., and Miss Alice Meegan acted as accompanists.

Advertiser 23/8/21

**THE DENTAL CONGRESS  
OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR.  
IMPORTANCE OF SOUND  
TEETH.**

The fourth Australian Dental Congress, at which delegates are present from all the other States and New Zealand, was opened in the Brookman Hall, School of Mines and Industries, on Monday afternoon by his Excellency the Governor. Dr. E. J. Counter (president of the congress) occupied the chair, and there were also on the platform Sir Langdon Bonython (president of the School of Mines and Industries), Sir Joseph Verco (dean of the faculty of dentistry at the University of Adelaide), the chairmen of the various inter-State delegations, and members of the South Australian executive. The body of the hall was filled with members of the dental profession and ladies accompanying them.

**Contributors to Human Happiness.**

After formal proceedings his Excellency, who was received with hearty applause, said:—There are some gatherings that I face with fear and trepidation, and I hope you will forgive me when I say that today's speech is one of the most difficult I have ever had to make. I count it a great pleasure and a privilege to declare this con-



Dr. E. J. Counter, President of the Congress.

gress open, but I have an inherent dislike of dentists collectively. (Laughter.) I am proud to own individual firm friends among your honorable profession, but in my wildest dreams I never thought I should see so many of you together. (Laughter.) With the help of my good friend, Mr. Swain, I had prepared a most portentous address, covering the whole field from the days of Moses up to our own day, but the time available will not permit me to speak at length. I may explain that the greater portion of my life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. Years ago, as a student for an agricultural degree, I had to go through a course of veterinary science, and I shall never forget what my first old professor drummed into me as a student. He used to say very emphatically, "No hoof, no horse." Is it not true to say also, "No mouth, no man?" (Applause.) In the time of Moses I believe dentistry was used almost as a method of torture. About 2,400 years ago the Egyptians were fairly competent in its practice, but we as a nation have been slow to act in everything. Although when we do act we act more efficiently and effectively than any other nation, we take a tremendous lot of stoking up. In the old country, largely through the efforts of Sir J. F. Collier and others, they are only just beginning to realise how much your profession really means to human happiness. (Applause.) I do not exaggerate when I say the dentist is a contributor to human happiness. Without digestion people always look on life through clouded spectacles. Proper mastication induces digestion, and with good digestion one may face even a tax collector with equanimity. (Applause and laughter.) For no other reason than that you are contributors to human happiness this congress has a great importance in the minds of every one who considers the matter from the national standpoint. In South Australia the science of dentistry has received a splendid contribution from the donation of the British Red Cross Society to Australia. It has an even more valuable asset in Sir Joseph Verco, to whom the State is under a huge debt of gratitude for everything he has done. (Applause.) The new Dental Hospital and its policy of administration will stand as a lasting monument of his enterprise, energy, and enthusiasm for this cause. (Applause.) I am delighted to declare this congress open, confident in the hope that it will contribute to the individual knowledge of those who are privileged to take part in it, and believing also that it will have a lasting effect upon the welfare of the community. (Applause.)

**Delegates Welcomed.**

Mr. Wallace Bruce (chairman of the State Dental Board), in welcoming the visitors, said if the congress would only firmly resolve to practise the profession of dentistry with a minimum of pain for a minimum of cost it would earn the everlasting thanks of a grateful public. The great purpose served by men meeting together in such a congress as this was to strengthen the bonds of friendship that should exist between all classes in the Commonwealth. Doubtless many subjects of scientific interest and importance would be discussed, and he was sure much good would result from their deliberations. (Applause.)

Dr. G. H. McElhone (New South Wales), in responding, said the visitors from whatever State, came there as Australians in order to derive what knowledge they could, and at the same time to contribute their share towards promoting interests of the profession as a whole. The public were the gainers by the interchanges of thought that took place. (Applause.) In New South Wales a great deal had been achieved, but until they were organized on the lines of the British Medical Association the position would not be all that it could be desired. The aim of the profession should be constantly to educate the public in the matter of oral hygiene. Medical men realised the tremendous amount of harm that could result from a mouth in bad condition, and the sooner the public realised it the better it would be for the general health of the community. (Applause.) The Dental Corps of the A.I.F. had never received full credit for the work it did during the war. Without the work of the dentists, who offered their services at that time, thousands of men would have been prevented from taking an active part in the hostilities. (Applause.)

Mr. W. J. Luckfield (Victoria) congratulated Adelaide upon having the congress. At no previous gathering of the kind had there been such a large number of visiting delegates, and this was a compliment to the city and the profession in this State. He also congratulated South Australia upon having such organisations as the Odontological Society and the Dental Graduates' Association, also upon the establishment of a University course in dentistry and the decision to erect a Dental Hospital. Not only South Australia, but the whole Commonwealth was fortunate in having Sir Joseph Verco as Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry in this State. (Applause.)

Mr. W. R. Parker (Queensland) complimented South Australia upon what was being done in the examination of school children's teeth and in teaching children the importance of brushing their teeth and gums. Such instruction would do much in promoting the general health of the community in years to come. Before the next congress was held in Queensland it was hoped that a dental course would be inaugurated in connection with the University of Brisbane. (Applause.)

Dr. J. A. Campbell Wilson (Western Australia) said in Perth no facilities were offered for students of dentistry. Apart from the apprenticeship system they had to scratch along as best they could. For the last eight or ten years a school children's dental clinic had been conducted through a few professional men making their services available, and the Government had at last agreed to appoint a permanent officer for the work, but had not offered a salary sufficient to induce a good man to come forward.

Mr. R. C. Sharp (Tasmania) said his State could claim to have passed the first Dental Act in Australasia, and also to have inaugurated the first school dental clinic, which was fathered by Mr. W. T. McCoy, now Director of Education in South Australia. (Applause.) The removal of Mr. McCoy to Adelaide was South Australia's gain and Tasmania's loss. (Applause.)

Mr. J. D. Mitchell (New Zealand) said the Dominion had a scheme of training dental nurses to teach the school children the value of dental hygiene. Already 30 nurses had been trained for the work. They gave necessary instructions, and did simple filling of six-year molars. In that way the children passed on to the regular practitioners with their mouths in fair order. Bursaries were available for first-year students of dentistry, and when they became qualified they gave two years' service to the State at very little remuneration, attended to the school children, and supplemented the work of the dental nurses. (Applause.)

**Presidential Address.**

Dr. Counter, who received an ovation on rising to deliver his presidential address, also extended a warm welcome to the visitors. He said the vital importance of odontology, it was gratifying to note, had come to be recognised universally. Owing to the war over nine years had elapsed since the last congress was held in Queensland, and during that period it had been a difficult matter to maintain interest in the associated life of the profession; but now the world was settling down to its civil duties once more their efforts could be given to the elevation of the profession into one big body, whose aim would be to raise the status of the science of dentistry still higher, to the advantage not only of the profession, but of the people of the Commonwealth. (Applause.) Considering the importance of dentistry, it was impossible to raise too high the standard of efficiency in its practitioners, and so much had the organs of mastication to do with the digestion and other processes of the body, it could safely be said that until the advances of modern scientific dentistry were available to all the Commonwealth would not be possessed of a people capable, in the highest degree, of develop-