

Ad. 1-6-20

Req. 2-6-20

Ad. 11-6-20

THE MEDICAL DEGREE.

SIX YEARS' COURSE PROPOSED.

Sydney, May 28.

A discussion took place at today's sitting of the University Conference on the question whether a five years' course was too short for a degree in medicine.

Sir Joseph Verco (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the Adelaide University) said the feeling in Adelaide was that the five years' course of medicine was not long enough, and Adelaide had practically a six years' course.

Acting Professor Anderson (Melbourne) said the opinion in his city was also favorable to a six years' course.

The conference decided to have an enquiry into the matter of making the course six years, leaving the decision to the medical faculties of the three Universities concerned, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide.

Ad. 2-6-20

THE CONQUEST OF NATURE.

FASCINATING SERIES OF LECTURES.

Professor Brailsford Robertson, in electing to speak on "The Conquest of Nature" in a series of three University extension lectures, chose a fascinating subject, and the manner in which he dealt with it in the opening lecture in the Prince of Wales Theatre on Tuesday night, proved delightful to a large audience. The lecturer said the distinguishing characteristic of intelligent as contrasted with purely instinctive beings, was the possession of teachability or the capacity to learn. The distribution of intelligence as judged by teachability was extraordinarily capricious. It was not until they arrived at the highest class of mammals, the higher monkeys, and the apes—that it was possible to observe any clear relationship of teachability to position in the scale of animal relationships. The distinguishing feature of intelligent animals was the possession of curiosity, and this property became more and more marked as they ascended the scale of animal relationships. Curiosity associated with teachability was the twofold foundation of science, and from that humble origin had arisen the inspiring conceptions of the universe that had enabled their philosophies, swept away mythologies, and interpreted the riddle of the stars. Science did not begin last century or the century before, but was contemporaneous with man. There was only one way of conquering Nature, and the strategy of the warfare was always the same. Observation, comparison, deduction, and experiment were the links in the chain which, indefinitely repeated, had led to the most grandiose conception of the universe, to the amelioration of some unspeakable human ill, or to the tapping of hidden and hitherto unsuspected wealth. The first steps in any enterprise were the most difficult, and they must proffer their respect to the inventiveness and fortitude of the countless unnamed men, who for untold centuries labored in order that the human race might reap.

The lecturer reviewed the gradual development which followed the fashioning of rude cutting edges and spear heads out of flint. With the improvement of implements for hunting, man had acquired the means of providing himself with clothing, which was immediately a tremendous asset in the conquest of Nature, because it conferred the means of reducing climatic disadvantages, whereas, without clothing the habitation of man would have been limited to a comparatively narrow belt near the equator. Professor Robertson referred also to the discovery and mastery of fire, the conquest of metals, the domestication of animals, the development of primitive agriculture, the building of permanent homes, the earliest principles of medicine and surgery, and the devising of a calendar. The earliest science to be studied for its own sake was astronomy, which found a practical application in the construction of calendars. Difficulty arose in making years of an exact number of days, and also in including the exact number of months, but the Metonic system of the ancient Greeks had an error of only two hours in 19 years, and the Aztec, or ancient Mexican calendar, was so accurate that the error amounted to only 1-300th part of a day per annum. The first investigations of scientific knowledge were the Greeks, who laid the foundation of systematic science as it was known to-day.

The subject of the second lecture will be "The Achievement of Conquest, a New System of Thought," and the third "The Fruits of Conquest."

"THE CONQUEST OF NATURE."

Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, of the chair of physiology at the Adelaide University, delivered the first of three lectures on "The conquest of nature," in the Prince's Theatre on Tuesday evening. He said that man's knowledge of science was the outcome of the very humble beginnings of curiosity associated with memory. There was only one method of conquering nature, and that was by observation, comparison, deduction, and experiment. That cycle had led man from the first stage, when he chipped flints, up to his use of the internal combustion engine. The first steps had been extremely slow. A calculation had been made that the existence of man on earth had been something like 4,000,000 years, yet even the discovery of the use of fire only dated back 150,000 years. The lecturer described the development of some of the primitive implements of warfare and the chase, and of clothing, and of metals. He dwelt upon the evolution of the calendar, from the Egyptian to the Greek metonic, the latter of which was only two hours in error in 19 years. But among the gems of calendars was that of the Aztecs (the ancient Mexicans). That marvellous compilation of a marvellous people had only an error of one-fifth hundredth (1-500) part of a day in each year. Early attempts were made to measure the circumference of the earth, and the best estimates were arrived at in Alexandria about 300 B.C. The measurements were very difficult, as they depended upon bisecting the circumference of the moon and, as a result, the calculations arrived at were much in error. They were only about one-third of the true value. That mistake had an important historic consequence, as it was on that estimate that Columbus based his undertaking to sail to India. If Columbus had known the true value of the calculations he would never have sailed, and America might not have been discovered. Many fine lantern slides were employed to emphasize the discourse.

Ad. 5-6-20

THE UNIVERSITY CRITICISED.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Victoria League on Friday, Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, of the Adelaide University, referred with pleasure to the decision of the Inter-University Congress in Sydney last week to make an interchange of professors with the University of Toronto. This would have an immense influence for good, as had been demonstrated in the case of the United States and Germany. He also took the opportunity to draw attention to the stupendous significance of their universities in the maintenance of the Empire. The war had demonstrated the almost unlimited potentialities which might arise out of scientific research by properly qualified men. They could not, however, compete with countries prepared to stake their future on the discoveries that would be made in the universities—such as those of Germany, America, and Japan—unless they, too, were prepared to back up their young men and young women in industrial, social, and public health problems. To do that Australia must have far better endowed and better-equipped universities. It was a disgrace and a menace to the future safety of South Australia that the department of engineering in Adelaide was squeezed into two or three little rooms which would be an exiguous allowance for a night school in an American country town, and that the departments of physics and chemistry should be so pitifully understaffed and cramped for space. This, he said, was a matter that vitally concerned the Empire and therefore the league.

Advertiser 7.6.20

APPLIED SCIENCE.

WILL HELP AUSTRALIA.

LONDON, June 3.

At the Entomological Conference Mr. Watt (Federal Treasurer) drew attention to the need for the proper instruction of students in Australia. The Commonwealth, he said, must be affected by the application of science at every turn if it were to become, as he thought it ought to be, one of the great agricultural countries of the world. Men must be trained who would take a hand in the experimental work which was going to help develop the Commonwealth's agriculture and solve its many problems.

NURSING AND DENTISTRY.

In the allocation of the gift money remitted to Australia by the British Red Cross Society, London, in commemoration of the close co-operation that existed between the Red Cross organisations in the Motherland and Dominions for relieving suffering caused by the war, £10,000 is to go to the District Trained Nursing Society in South Australia, and £15,000 for the establishment of a dental department in connection with the Adelaide Hospital. Referring to the matter on Thursday, Sir Joseph Verco (president of the Red Cross Society) said the object primarily in view was to assist institutions and nursing organisations whose operations would benefit returned soldiers and sailors and their dependents, and, secondly, to help in the larger field of remedial and preventive work on which the Australian Red Cross was entering as a member of the International League of Red Cross Societies. As far as the District Trained Nursing Society was concerned, the money would permit the extension of its work in country districts, especially where they were settlements of returned soldiers. An example was to be found in what had already been done in connection with the Moorook Settlement, where a branch of the District Trained Nursing Society had been established, and the Red Cross Society was helping to bear a proportion of the expense. Dr. Lendon (president of the District Trained Nursing Society) remarked that details of the trust were not to hand yet, but he understood that the organisation would not be placed in any better position in regard to its general activities. It could not, for example, utilise the money to subsidise the metropolitan branches. The gift was intended to enable it to establish others in new districts, primarily with the object of assisting soldier settlers and their dependents. In other quarters it was learned that the sum to be devoted for the establishment of a fully-equipped dental department in connection with the Adelaide Hospital has come at a specially opportune time, from the standpoint of the University, which recently inaugurated a course for dental students under the disadvantage of there being no such institution in Adelaide in conjunction with which the training could be given. It is understood that steps will be taken to have facilities, similar to those given at the Adelaide Hospital to medical students, extended in the new department to dental students, and also that arrangements are likely to be made by the Hospital Board to take over certain dental work that is now being done under the military authorities in the interests of returned soldiers. A conference between representatives of the Hospital Board, the University, and the dental profession will be held next week. In the case of both gifts the ultimate benefit to the civil community will be considerable.

Herald 11-6-20

ECONOMICS FOR ALL

UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS' NEW TRACTARIAN MOVEMENT.

An experiment which will be watched with interest is being made by professors from Oxford University. They realise that "at the present time public interest centres round economic questions, and their political development," and that never was there such necessity for the diffusion of knowledge of the principles which underlie political economy. They realise, too, that it is practically impossible to get large numbers of the general public to read great treatises on the subject; and so they propose to give them small doses in the form of tracts, of which the first seven are now issued under the title, "The Approach of Economics," "What is Economics?" "The Industrial Conflict," "Real Wealth and Real Wages," "Capital, Capitalism, and Capitalists," "Why Nations Trade," and "The Position of Agriculture." Each pamphlet is four pages, and is published at 1d., and it is noteworthy that "they will cease to appear unless all expenses are cleared." The writers are of the highest attainments, and the pamphlets are not made too technical.

For those of a reasonable studious turn of mind, the pamphlets will have a strong appeal, and may lead to the reading of books which deal with the subject at greater length. But it is clear that if such a series is really to pay its way it should be able to get hold of the bigger public, and we are bound to say that an even more popular style of writing is both desirable and possible. Again, surely anybody used to selling reading matter designed to have a wide appeal would have counselled a more attractive presentation. Wells' "History of the World" is a case in point. The subject is not easy, and yet the book has attained great popu-

larity, in no small measure because the parts have been given an appearance very attractive to the general public, though not perhaps to university professors. We make these remarks in no spirit of captious criticism, but because we should like the series to succeed, for the wider the spread of economic knowledge the wiser is likely to be the action of people who attain to that knowledge.

Ad. 14-6-20

LONDON UNIVERSITY

GIFT OF £1,205,000.

FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH.

LONDON, June 11.

The Rockefeller Foundation has given £1,205,000 to University College, London, for the assistance of medical research. The alterations proposed include a new Institute of Anatomy, which should be the finest of its kind in the world.

Req. 14-6-20

EMPIRE MEDICAL SCIENCE.

LONDON CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

LONDON, June 12.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Lord Milner), speaking at the dinner tendered by the Government to the delegates to the Imperial Entomological Conference, dwelt on the enormous progress of science. He paid a tribute to the supreme importance of the work as regards the colonies. He said that the tropical and sub-tropical possessions of the Empire had an enormous future. Their health and accessibility were the greatest things in the future, and in the combating of disease, splendid work had been done by the congress. He hoped that it would meet in the future at regular intervals. Professor Watt (of the Chair of Agriculture at the Sydney University) said that the campaign against locusts in the Transvaal had had great effect in dealing with the plague.

At the final meeting of the conference Viscount Harcourt presided. Resolutions were carried in favour of holding a similar conference in London every five years; of establishing the Imperial Bureau of Entomology on a permanent basis; recommending that the contributory Governments should guarantee contributions; and the provision of a total yearly income of £13,000.

Req. 14-6-20

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN STUDENT MOVEMENT.

Before a large congregation in the Pirie Street Methodist Church on Sunday evening the new State Secretary of the University Christian Students' Union (Mr. Norman Smith, M.A.) explained the objects of that body. A number of Varsity undergraduates were present. Mr. Smith, who was introduced by the Rev. Henry Howard, said the work of the movement had been of great value to students. It showed them the need of God, the reality of religion, and the enrichment of life through following Christ. The movement had been begun late last century by a small group of learned men in America and Europe, and in 25 years the rapidity of its growth had been astonishing, and the intensity of interest evidenced in it was remarkable. The prime movers in it were Professor Henry Drummond of England and Mr. John Mott of America. The latter had done great work, and his personal operations had covered many countries, including Japan and Australia, which places he had visited in 1895-6. When he had arrived in the Commonwealth there were three small groups of interested persons in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. The International Christian Students' Federation had been formed in Switzerland, by a small number of university men, but it now embraced 300,000 students, representing 40 nationalities. During the war the great world fellowship had had members on either side of the firing line. In Australia there were about 4,000 persons connected with it. The centre of the body was in Melbourne, and the Chairman of the South Australian council was Professor Rennie. They had branches in all of the larger of the public schools in Australia, and from an educational standpoint it was of great value to students. The organisation stood for a fearless investigation of all the facts of the spiritual as well as the physical life. They expected