

Advertiser 27/8/21

THE UNIVERSITY

NEW CHAIR OF ZOOLOGY.

AN AUSTRALIAN APPOINTED

Hitherto the University of Adelaide has been without a Chair of Zoology, though the Universities of Queensland and Western Australia, which have only had a third of its life, each had one almost from its start. In view of the development here of the sciences of life and agriculture, the University Council decided to search widely for the best available man. It advertised in Britain and America, as well as throughout Australasia, with the result that 21 applications, including ten from professors, were received, some from men of great distinction or promise in England and the United States. It is gratifying to find that the unanimous choice of the council has fallen on an Australian.

Professor Harvey Johnston, M.A., D.Sc., who has been appointed, is 39 years of age. He has had a distinguished biological career, during which he has travelled extensively, and has applied the knowledge gained to practical purposes in the elucidation of various pressing Australian problems. After studying zoology under Professor Haswell, F.R.S., and Professor J. P. Hill, F.R.S., at the University of Sydney, he spent two years in charge of the biological courses in the Technical College at Sydney, during which he commenced an important series of researches on parasitic worms. In 1909 he was selected to occupy the position of Assistant Microbiologist in the newly created Bureau of Microbiology, in New South Wales. Here he was engaged in biological work affecting pastoral and agricultural interests, dealing especially with the worm-nodule disease of cattle, and the many parasites of various kinds that affect sheep, horses, cattle, pigs, and poultry.

From this position, which gave him almost unique opportunities for the study of subjects of great practical importance, he was selected to direct the Department of Biology in the University of Queensland. Here his experience and training were at once made use of in connection with such pressing problems as prickly pear control, worm-nodule disease in cattle, cattle tick fever, the blowfly pest in sheep, and fishery problems along the Barrier Reef. He was selected as chairman of a special committee sent abroad to study the prickly pear problem in America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. Important information was obtained by this committee, and Dr. Johnston had many opportunities of making himself acquainted with the equipment of the foremost biological laboratories of the world. On his return he continued his work at the University of Queensland, building up a very efficient department and installing the spirit of research into his pupils, of whom several have already made very good investigations.

Last year Professor Johnston was again chosen to go abroad to collect information about prickly pear and to endeavor to find some sure means for controlling this pest. This choice was made by the Commonwealth Bureau of Science and Industry, and confirmed by the Federal Government. Professor Johnston recently returned from this second extensive world tour, and is engaged in the work of applying to the problem here the information so laboriously acquired. This work will occupy him for at least the next 18 months, by which time he hopes to have the issues at stake so clearly defined that his personal touch at the actual helm will no longer be required. Considering Professor Johnston's able academic career, his extensive later experience, and the fact that he is engaged on such an important Australian service, the Council of the University has agreed to allow him to continue his present research during 1922. A capable substitute will carry on the work of the new department under his direction.

Dr. Johnston's contributions to biological science are many and important. His popular science lectures have attracted large audiences in Brisbane. It is felt that his close association for so many years with important pastoral and agricultural, and even fishery problems, will be of great advantage to the State. The school will occupy the third floor of the Darling Building, which is now being erected.

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Now that Professor Thomas Harvey Johnston, of Brisbane, has been appointed professor of zoology at the Adelaide University there are nine Australian-born professors on the staff of the University, a fact which is at once a certificate to the aptitude of Australians in acquiring scientific and classical knowledge, and to the readiness of the University Council to recognise the special attainments of native-born scholars. The nine Australian occupants of chairs are:—Professors Chapman, Cleland, Kerr Grant, Henderson, Johnston, Sir Douglas Mawson, Rennie, Robertson, and Wilton. Three of these gentlemen are South Australians, and the late Professor Sir Edward Stirling was also a native of this State. The two last-named of the present professors graduated at the Adelaide University, and subsequently continued their studies at Universities abroad. Dr. Harold Davies, the professor of music, is also a graduate of the Adelaide University.

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DENTAL CONGRESS

HYGIENE OF THE MOUTH.

The fourth Australian Dental Congress concluded its sittings at the School of Mines and Industries on Friday. In the morning a business meeting of the members was held, at which matters of general interest to the profession, relating mainly to the various dental organisations of the States, were discussed. It was followed by a Federal Council meeting of the National Dental Association of Australia. Dr. E. J. Counter presided over both gatherings.

In the afternoon the programme consisted of the following papers:—

"Materia medica," by Mr. P. M. Coughlin.

"Some principles of orthodontic teaching and practice," Dr. W. Stanley Wilkinson.

"Orthodontics from a general practitioner's point of view," by Mr. C. O. Tebbutt.

"Orthodontic engineering," by Dr. B. L. Rosentengel.

In a paper entitled "Mouth Hygiene: Recent developments in the United States of America," by Dr. Guy S. Millery, of California, the writer stated that 15 of the American States had already passed laws licensing dental hygienists, and a similar step was pending in Ohio and Illinois. Another notable event was the gift by Mrs. G. R. Carter, of Honolulu, of 1,000,000 dollars for the erection and maintenance of a dental infirmary and training school for dental hygienists at Honolulu. Professional activity in the field of mouth hygiene had been sporadic among both individuals and associations. A democratic and far-reaching plan recently proposed in the Contra Costa county of California, and supported by the Women's Federation, was to add a tax of 5 cents per 100 dollars for mouth hygiene work throughout the county. It was estimated that 50,000 dollars would be raised by this method, which would provide a service more complete and efficient than any yet promulgated. The California State Dental Association, through its educational committee, had been fortunate in arousing the interest of the leading social welfare and health organisations, so that they were now spreading the gospel of "clean mouths, sound teeth, and healthy gums" all over the state. The success of the mouth hygiene movement depended on three things:—1. Prophylactic service for the children, with the personal instruction accompanying it. 2. Education of the public in this great social work. 3. Guidance of the effort by the dental profession. To provide for the first, legislation had been passed in California. The State University was to be the standard for course of study. The dental hygienist must have a minimum age of 18 years, and a minimum in the subjects prescribed in the curriculum.

receive a license from the board of dental examiners, pay an annual fee, and serve under the direction and supervision of a licensed dentist. These conditions were strictly limited to removal of stains and accretions from the exposed surfaces of the teeth. It had been necessary to amend the school law, and boards of education were now legally empowered to employ various health agents, including dentists and dental hygienists, and care for the remediable defects of children in the schools at public expense. The problem opened up a field of dental activity that would demand the attention, interest, and undoubtedly the service of persons trained wholly or in part in dental science. The appointment of dentists and dental hygienists in the public service of Teachers and other similar positions in public and private institutions, pointed the way towards progress. As a result of many years of experience Dr. Fones had proposed a law, which had been submitted to the Connecticut Legislature, providing for the training of public school hygienists in the normal schools of the state. This would place the teaching of hygiene on an even footing with history, English, and mathematics in those schools.

Interest in the health of school children was becoming more vital each year, especially in the parent-teacher organisations. Disease was a nation's greatest burden. It must be borne by those who were able to carry it. When the burden fell on the ignorant and poverty stricken it became a public responsibility, and others must bear it. Most ills were the direct result of septic mouths, or were transmitted to the body by way of the mouth. Clean mouths, sound teeth, and healthy gums would inhibit, if not eradicate, most of them. Setting up a broken-down physique was like scrambling eggs. It could be accomplished best by preventing the trouble before it had happened. Every recruit in the army to-day passed through the dental surgeon's hands and was instructed in mouth hygiene. The United States Public Service was carrying its message to its charges in the same manner. The wealth and the mental and moral superiority of a nation depended on its health, and their responsibility in the matter was clearly defined. The public school children, the second line of defence in the nation, were not being adequately cared for in so far as health training was concerned, and they deserved more consideration than adults. Dental teachers had conceded the importance of it to such a degree that the next meeting of the American Institute of Dental Teachers, at Montreal, January, 1922, would feature prevention for the entire programme. The afternoon session in the section of orthodontics was presided over by Miss Beatrice Bennett, of Adelaide. For the evening the social programme consisted of dancing at the Palais Royal. The final engagement of the congress will be a marine excursion to the Outer Harbor this morning. Most of the delegates have arranged to leave by the afternoon train for the eastern States.

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IS THE PEACE TREATY JUST?

From Professor COLEMAN PHILLIPSON, in your issue of August 23 I notice an extraordinary letter, signed "Whizz Bang." He says he has "some interest in the justice or otherwise of the treaty," but is apparently unaware of my article (in "The Advertiser" for August 6), which, in the view of many able people in Adelaide, was a thoroughly complete and satisfactory reply to the various objections raised. Further, this correspondent wants to know why I have not replied, more particularly to "Sir Oracle." The letter of "Sir Oracle" in "The Advertiser" of August 17 was only an attempted jest, and my reply of the 18th was in the same spirit and, I submit, was an improvement on the jest. Will "Whizz Bang," therefore, say what there was to reply to? I am afraid he has made a serious blunder. Perhaps "Sir Oracle" would kindly inform "Whizz Bang" whether I failed to reply to any point raised by him, and whether I offered him the least ghost of a trace of "abuse?"

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ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

NEW LECTURER IN GEOLOGY.

MR. C. T. MADIGAN APPOINTED.

At a meeting of the University Council on Friday Mr. C. T. Madigan was appointed Lecturer in Geology. When Professor Howelin retired last year, in order to devote his full time to research, it was decided to place the School of Geology under Sir Douglas Mawson, who will now have his old pupil and associate, Mr. C. T. Madigan, to assist him. Mr. Madigan graduated as Bachelor of Science in 1910, and was elected Rhodes Scholar, proceeded to Oxford, where he made Geology his special study. He spent 1911 and 1912 at the Antarctic. The record of his sledging journey, which is printed in "The Home of the Blizzard," records the



Mr. C. T. Madigan.

trials and difficulties of exploration along 250 miles of entirely unknown coastline. The meteorology of the expedition, in the records of which he took a leading part, is just now being prepared in table form for publication. On the return of the expedition, Mr. Madigan returned to Oxford. The outbreak of the war interrupted his studies, and he spent from August, 1914, to February, 1919, in France and Flanders, as a captain in the Royal Engineers. Though once wounded, he suffered no serious hurt. Early in 1919 he was made a lecturer in Oxford to complete a course in geology under Professor Sollas, in the Honors School of Natural Science. At the end of that year he graduated B.A. (1st class honors). At this time Professor Sollas wrote of him:—"From my knowledge of Mr. Madigan's exceptional powers, I am led to believe that a brilliant career awaits him, and I should like to add, on behalf of his fellow students, as well as myself, that we shall follow it with the greatest interest and good wishes." Sir Herbert Warren, President of Magdalen College, wrote:—"I have always had the highest opinion of his character and energy, and should like to recommend him strongly for any post, professional, scientific, or official, for which his unique combination of intellectual gifts and character fits him." After graduating at Oxford, Mr. Madigan was immediately appointed Assistant Geologist to the Southern Geological Survey. His duties in this connection carried him from headquarters at Khartoum into Abyssinia and down the Red Sea coast. He travelled in three projected reconnoissances, executed during 1920 and 1921, some 2,000 miles by camel. His reports appear in the Sudan Government records.