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FORGET INSULIN. ADVICE TO DIABETICS.

The sooner the public can be persuaded to forget the word "insulin" the better it will be for the unfortunate victims of the uncanny disease of diabetes.—"Medical Journal of Australia."

Melbourne, August 31.

"Hundreds of diabetics will be hastened to their graves by insulin before the full therapeutic significance of the preparation can be ascertained." This startling addition to the already conflicting mass of opinion on the subject of the treatment of diabetes with insulin is contained in the latest issue of the "Medical Journal of Australia."

The journal considers that the public has been misled by many articles on the subject, and that sufficient is not yet known about the preparation to justify the extravagant claims made for it. Though a public propaganda has been employed to create a demand on the part of patients for this form of treatment, the public has been told much concerning the remedy which is not true, and, in consequence, is convinced that diabetes can be cured by this means.

In support of this assertion the journal quotes a similar tragedy of blind faith which occurred at the time of the introduction of tuberculin, when ghastly results attended the wholesale misuse of this remedy, following upon the demand of the public.

The article, in stressing the unenviable position in which the medical profession is placed when patients demand a certain form of treatment, advises practitioners to refuse to bear the responsibility for insulin treatment unless facilities for continuous observations are possessed. It is not yet known under what circumstances insulin preparation can safely be used, and it is considered that the treatment should not be applied until thorough investigations and arrangements have been made for its control.

That the "Medical Journal" possesses very decided views on the matter is evidenced in the concluding opinion, that the sooner the public can be persuaded to forget the word "insulin" the better it will be for the unfortunate victims of the uncanny disease of diabetes.

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PERTH UNIVERSITY. NEW BUILDING BEGUN.

PERTH, Sunday.

The foundation stone of the first section of the permanent home of the University of Western Australia on the hillside at Crawley, overlooking the Swan River, was laid on Saturday by the Premier (Sir James Mitchell). The University was opened in 1913 in temporary buildings in Perth, with 94 matriculated students and 91 non-matriculated, and with endowment of £13,500. Now it has 331 matriculated and a teaching staff of 20 full time and 10 part time members. Its cost is £17,000 a year. The new building will have two stories, with a frontage of 210 ft., designed for schools of geology and biology, with a lecture theatre to accommodate 100 students. The ceremony was preceded by a gay procession of University students through the streets of Perth to Crawley.

FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT.

The great need for the Governments of the Australian States to accept responsibilities in the matter of re-afforestation by providing for a forest policy in each State to ensure continuity in planting, management, and development of forests, and bring about less dependence on foreign products in the future, was discussed at a meeting of the council of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce on Friday. The Associated Chambers of Commerce at the conference held at Brisbane in May gave serious consideration to it, and the Adelaide Chamber recently brought the matter directly under the notice of the South Australian Government, which has since announced its intention to establish a large area of new forests in the south-east. As indicating the urgency of the matter, it was mentioned at Friday's meeting that Australia had been so neglectful of its forestry duties that, according to statistics, 40 per cent. of all the timber used in the Commonwealth had been imported on an average since the beginning of Federation, and it was understood several of the largest mills in Western Australia were likely to be closed during the next 10 or 12 years from want of material. South Australia, although the first State to undertake anything like a systematic national forest policy, and the only one which today possessed a true forestry college associated with the University, still spent little more than one-third of the £100,000 a year expended upon the New Zealand forests; and, while the Dominion alone planted 4,000,000 trees annually, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia unitedly put in only about 3,000,000. In the United Kingdom the war had caused serious spoiling of forests, and the Prince of Wales had recently commented with astonishment upon the extraordinary fact that, between four and five years after the close of the war not 5 per cent. of the trees which were then removed had been replaced by others over the 1,000,000 acres from which they had been taken. This prominent announcement fanned into flame the feelings of alarm which had been excited by the report of a distinguished Royal Commission on Forestry, who, in the strongest terms of urgency, declared the absolutely pressing need for drastic forestry reform. Similar agitation was being witnessed in Canada, the United States of America, and several other countries. In New Zealand large royalties were being earned from privately owned forests. There had been neglect to realize that the by-products were more valuable than the main article itself, and that large profits were to be made from the cast-away by-products, which composed the raw material for power alcohol, paper pulp, turpentine, resins, oils, tar, pitch, gums, charcoal, dyestuffs, and gas. Dealing at the meeting on Friday with a communication from the South Australian branch of the Australian Forest League, formally requesting the co-operation of the Adelaide Chamber in the encouragement of forestry, the council carried the following resolution:—"That the South Australian branch of the Australian Forest League be informed that the proper development of forestry has been and is strongly advocated by this Chamber, which will gladly send delegates to any representative conference that may be convened to consider definite and united action regarding the matter."

Mail 3.9.23.

EDUCATIONAL METHODS Conference in Adelaide

The subject of education is one of such paramount importance that the conference on "New Methods in Education," to be held in Adelaide at University Conservatorium of Music on September 13, 14, and 15, commands the greatest interest. A varied programme has been arranged for the three days, which will have afternoon and evening sessions. Mr. Lawton, of St. Andrew's, East Kew (Vic.), will speak on "The problem of the Impossible Boy," and

Mr. F. K. Barton, of Turramurra College, N.S.W., on "Educational Freedom in Practice" and "The Instincts and the School." Both Mr. Lawton and Mr. Barton were in England after the war, and attended Homer Lane's lectures, which are now used as a foundation for most of the psychological work of the day. They also visited Persse, Bedales, and Dundee, where the new method of education is used, and, coming back to Australia, started schools of their own, where these ideas were put into practice, and found most successful. Other speakers will be Miss Gillan, of Woodlands Church of England Grammar School for Girls; Miss Berry, of St. Peter's Collegiate School for Girls, North Adelaide; Mr. Allen, of the Adelaide High School; and Professor Davies, of the Conservatorium of Music. Prominent educationists are taking the keenest interest in this conference, which will be under the presidency of Professor Darnley Naylor, and the chair at the various sessions will be occupied by Professor McKellar Stewart, Professor Archibald Strong, Dr. Heaton, and Dr. Schulz. It is expected that the hall will be inadequate to hold those wishing to attend. A many people are already applying for tickets.

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ELDER CONSERVATORIUM. SUCCESSFUL STUDENT CONCERT.

The high level of the performance at the students' concerts at the Elder Conservatorium, Adelaide, is being not only maintained, but even raised, and the value of such opportunities for testing their power not only over their respective instruments, but over the appreciation of an audience, cannot be overstated. To play or to hear played in public works which may have been familiar in ordinary study is to obtain quite a new sense of values and possibilities. It is a happy sign that most of the young performers are evidently too much absorbed in the music they are interpreting to suffer unduly from nervousness. In instrumental work especially Monday's concert at the Elder Hall proved most satisfactory. The opening number, "Air on G string" (Matheson) for violins ensemble, conducted by Mr. Gerald Walernn, was given with a fine dignity of feeling and evenness of tone—altogether a performance to be proud of. Miss Louise Hakendorf (Elder scholar) received prolonged and emphatic applause for her rendering of the first movement of the "Concerto in A minor" for the violin (de Bériot), a spirited handling of a difficult composition. Another pleasing violin number was "Reverie" (Vieuxtemps), by Miss Annie Oliver. Mr. Frederick Gibbons evinced nice feeling, and real sincerity of expression in his cello solo, "Simple Aven" (Thome). There were several really good pianoforte numbers, and here not only brilliant execution, but really charming qualities of touch and expression, were to be noted. Miss Muriel Prince (Brookman scholar) gave "Etude in D flat" (Liszt), with brilliant fluency and real expression; and Miss Bessie Francis (Alex. Clark scholar) gave just the fitting interpretation, marked with especial delicacy, of three sketches by Frank Bridge, "April," "Rosemary," and "Valse Capricieuse." Miss Alice Meegan, A.M.U.A., was happily descriptive and expressive in her rendering of "Jeux d'eau" (Ravel);

Miss Molly Alexander gave "Toccata and Fugue in D minor," also with success. Among the young vocalists Miss Elsie Cook evinced particularly clear enunciation in "a recitative and air," from Heydn's "Creation," and Mr. Edward Payne gave an expressive rendering of "Cavatina," from "Faust" (Gounod). Other pleasing vocalists were Mr. Edward Payne, Miss Alice Savage, Miss Elsie Woollic, and Miss Cecilia Nash. Mr. Herbert Edwards gave an organ solo, which proved his command over the king of instruments. Misses Alice Meegan, Muriel Prince, and Cora Godfree acted as accompanists.

A MUSICAL JUBILEE.

The University Choral Class.

The general public is too prone to enjoy the fruits of musical accomplishment without pausing to consider the arduous methods involved. For instance, there is the University Choral Class, which was inaugurated 25 years ago by Mr. Frederick Bevan.

The musical life of South Australia owes a debt to Mr. Bevan's efficient and conscientious work for the Elder Conservatorium. Mr. Bevan is one of the most self-effacing of men, and has little to say of his own notable career in London, prior to migrating to Australia. He won recognition there as a vocalist, an instructor, and a composer. At one time he was actually a member of four different societies at the same time—Henry Leslie's Choir, the Albert Hall Choral Society, now the Royal Choral Society, the St. Cecilia Choral Society, and Barnby's Choir. Mr. Bevan has sung as chorist under such famous men as Wagner, Gounod, Henry Leslie, Joseph Barnby, Michael Costa, William Susins, and Sir Arthur Sullivan. Feeling that there was opportunity to perform good service in behalf of his chosen life work, Mr. Bevan accepted the position of Professor of Singing at the Adelaide Conservatorium, 25 years ago, and in June, 1898, started the University Choral Class. It was his ambition to conduct that organization upon the lines of the great choral societies in England, and out of his rich musical experience to endeavour to transmit some of that knowledge to a young country. That he has succeeded in that laudable ambition is proved by the periodical public performances which are eagerly looked forward to, and crowded by widely representative gatherings of music lovers. But the time is coming when the Elder Hall



MR. FREDERICK BEVAN.

will be inadequate to hold the audiences, and, already, repeat performances have had to be given.

A Great Beginning.

The genial director of the University Choral Class was quite ready to chat to a pressman about the progress made. "Of course I love the work," he said to a representative of The Register on Monday. "I can hardly realize that it is a quarter of a century since we began, but, as the second generation of pupils is now being enrolled, I have a practical reminder. Let me tell you, also, that I even have the temerity to look forward to teaching the third generation."

Asked about next Monday's performance of "St. Paul," Mr. Bevan said it would celebrate the twenty-fourth annual presentation of some special work by the class. The membership varied from 100 to 150, and was not confined to students of the Conservatorium.