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Bald 192

UTILISING X-RAYS.

THEIR VALUE IN SURGERY AND COMMERCE.

One of the uses of X rays is to ascertain whether the centres of golf balls are spherical or not, according to Dr. H. Carew Nott, who spoke on the subject at the Rotary Club luncheon yesterday. Armed with a portfolio of remarkable photographs of various portions of the human anatomy, Dr. Nott held the interest of members while he told of the discovery, development, and uses of those mysterious rays. He explained that when an electrical current was passed through Crookes' tubes containing rarefied gases certain phenomena were set up which puzzled scientists for many years, and much time and thought were directed towards solving the problem. Chief among the investigators were Sir William Crookes in England and Professor Rontgen in Germany. The peculiar rays emitted were called X rays because their nature was then unknown. Whilst experimenting with them in a tube covered with black paper, the German scientist noticed that a fluorescent screen which was lying on the table glowed with a brilliant green light whenever the electrical current was passing through the tube, and assumed its normal appearance when the current was turned off. Following up his discovery he communicated his findings to the world in 1895, and X rays were being put to practical use in Australia two years later. Considerable strides had been made since then, and it had been definitely established that X rays were produced by electrons striking against any opaque substance. So far as was known at present, these rays had no mass, but were simply composed of vibrations, and in that respect were analogous to light rays, but,

unlike the latter, they had the power to pass through opaque substances and could not be reflected from a mirror or focussed by lenses as they passed completely through them. A certain proportion of them, however, became absorbed, and this fact had been availed of by medical and other scientists in connection with X ray photography.

In medical and surgical practice these photographs, Dr. Nott said, had proved invaluable in locating foreign substances in the body such as bullets, or pennies and buttons swallowed by children. By means of injections of metallic salts into different parts of their functions could be studied, and thus discoveries had been made which threw fresh light upon certain intricate diseases. The rays were also extensively used for detecting flaws in metal work and the woodwork of aeroplanes, as they had also been used during the war for exposing contraband cargoes. For detecting fractures in bones the use of X-rays was comparatively simple, and had now been reduced to a fine art.

To illustrate the strides made in this direction Dr. Nott produced two photographs of almost identical fractures of the forearm, both taken in Adelaide, one in 1897, when half an hour's exposure was required and one taken recently in a fraction of a second. Both definitely located the fracture, but the advance in medical science could undoubtedly be appreciated by the patient. Among the many interesting photographs shown was one taken by Dr. Nott of a box of golf balls, which he had tested, in order to test the veracity of the salesman, who guaranteed that they all contained perfectly solid and spherical centres.

GRAND PIONEER

Late Mr. Robert Barr Smith British Centenary on Monday

If he had lived, the late Mr. Robert Barr Smith, one of both Australia's greatest pioneers, would have been 100 years old on Monday. This public-spirited and generous citizen, who died on November 20, 1915 at the age of 91, left behind him a record that will stand for ever.

Noted for his philanthropy, he played a great part in opening up the back country of the State. He belonged to the sturdy pioneers who laid the foundations of South Australia, and although no record was kept of his acts of private charity, his public benefactions were numerous.

Mr. Barr Smith was born in Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, on February 4, 1824. He was a son of the Rev. Dr. Smith, of the Free church of Scotland. Mr. Barr Smith came to Melbourne, and in 1854 arrived in Adelaide, where he entered the firm of Elder and Co., later known as Elder, Smith and Co. There he was associated with the late Sir Thomas Elder, G.C.M.G. These two were pioneers in Australian shipping and commerce, in the extension of pastoral development, and in the opening up of undeveloped tracts of country.

Sir Thomas Elder and Mr. Barr Smith were the real pioneers of the pastoral settlement of the State. Everyone acquainted with the North knows of their work in opening up the country there. Other States, particularly New South Wales, also benefited in this direction.

Mr. Barr Smith played a prominent part in connection with the Wallaroo and Moonta mines for the firm generously assisted prospectors in the search for copper. Mr. Barr Smith loved racing, and loved hunting. He was the owner of the imported Mostyn, which won the Goodwood Handicap twice. Disliking publicity there were only a few public positions he consented to fill. He was a member of the Botanic Garden and Public Library Boards, and for a time was president of the South Australian Coursing Club. But most of his work was done in the background.

His benefactions were many, the St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral and the Adelaide University receiving most attention. The Trade Hall, which at one time had a mortgage of £2,300, also benefited by his generosity, the whole debt being wiped off. In 1895 Mr. Barr Smith presented to South Australia a steam lifeboat, costing £3,500. It was called the City of Adelaide.

Beloved by all classes, the late Mr. Barr Smith is still held in revered memory today. His private charity, his public benefactions, and his sound advice, combined with his cheery companionship, made him a friend of all.

Herald FEB 1924

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENT

VIOLIN TEACHER.

A TALENTED INSTRUMENTALIST.

At a meeting of the council of the University held on Friday, January 18, Mr. Charles Schilsky was appointed to succeed Mr. Gerald Walenn as a teacher of violin in the Elder Conservatorium. It is expected that he will reach Adelaide during the first week of April, when he will immediately take up his duties.

Mr. Schilsky is a cultured musician of European reputation as well as a solo violinist of exceptional ability, and his advent to this State will be a great gain to the cause of music.

He was born in London. His father, a Pole, was a naturalised British subject, and his mother a French woman. His first master for the violin was Benoit Hollander, and later he was a student of the distinguished Emile Sauret in Berlin. From Berlin Mr. Schilsky went to Paris, and was immediately engaged as a first violin player in the celebrated Lamoureux Orchestra. After

as a solo violinist in Russia, and made his debut there in conjunction with the Moscow Philharmonic Society, in association with the great Wagnerian singer, Theodore Reichmann. He remained in Russia for about a year, appearing in many large cities, and subsequently at Warsaw. After several subsequent engagements in Poland, he returned to England and became vice-leader of the Glasgow Symphony Orchestra, under Henschel. Following upon this association came his appointment as professor of the violin in the Belfast Conservatorium. Two years later he returned to London as a member of the Kruse String Quartette, of world-wide reputation. The quartette appeared at concerts all over the United Kingdom, as well as on the Continent. While in London at this time Mr. Schilsky was a teacher at the London Academy of Music, as well as the Hampstead Conservatoire, at the same time holding the responsible position of vice-leader of Queen's Hall Orchestra, under Sir Henry Wood. This position he resigned in order to visit the colonies as an examiner for Trinity College of Music, a responsibility which he has held with distinction for many years. More recently during a residence of two years in America, he acted as professor of violin and leader of the string quartette at the Buffalo Conservatorium, during which time he appeared as a solo player in New York before an audience of 3,000 people.

It will be remembered that Mr. Schilsky, during his visit to Adelaide last year, gave a recital so recently as last December, when his cultured and masterly playing established for him at once a reputation as an artist of supreme ability.

He is a brilliant teacher, who will place at the disposal of our many violin students his ripe experience and masterly technique. It is more than satisfactory, also, that as a pupil of the great Sauret, his methods will be those of his predecessor, Mr. Walenn, and therefore there will be no break in the continuity.

Mr. Schilsky has already expressed his earnest wish to form a distinctive Australian string quartette, and it is to be hoped that he will realise this ambition in the cause of musical art throughout the Commonwealth.

Register FEB 1924

EDUCATION

By Unlocks.

Value of Education.

Mr. Baldwin, in a speech just prior to the elections of the House of Commons, assured the people of the high value his party placed on education. He said: "Teachers had been patriotic, but they must remember that England was poorer than before the war, and that further reductions would be made, though they would never go back to pre-war times." The new conditions would be such as to attract the best men and women to the service. Whatever these attractions are, The London Times says that Mr. Baldwin's policy cannot be described as a bribe. The Prime Minister holds the opinion, in common with all Englishmen, that their system of education is the best in the world, and mentioned that experts, who ought to know, affirmed that the English youth was two years ahead of the American in secondary education. That might be owing to the fact that the English aim at starting higher education at 11 years of age, while in U.S.A. they begin later, as we do in Australia. He went on further to point out that in adult education England leads the world. Nowhere is there such cordial co-operation between State Universities and the various agencies controlled by the working class than in the old country. The movement adds much to the fruitfulness of education in England, and is a bond of social unity.

In this connection it is interesting to notice the opinions of other leading men. Lord Haldane, presiding over a crowded attendance at a meeting organized by the British Institute of Adult Education, remarked that adult education was nothing

new. We had abolished the idea that education consisted of separated bits—elementary, primary, secondary, and university. It is now looked upon as one great whole, and all people are entitled, according to choice, to have as much as they like. Lord Grey said that primary and secondary education were valuable as equipment for work, but were not in the truest and highest sense, education. Adult education was not equipment for any special object, it was the training of men for life and living. It would break down class barriers. It was the education people gave themselves after other people considered they were educated, and all classes need it, the rich as much as others.

In our State the W.E.A. is doing excellent work in the matter of adult education, and every State in the Commonwealth has a branch of this fine institution. A member of the new Labour Cabinet in England said that his colleagues could be depended on, for they had graduated in the hard school of life. There may be much truth in this saying, for one not infrequently has come across a University graduate who is a mere child compared with his employer, who never saw the inside of a university. But, other things being equal, the man with the university training behind him will always lead the other. Many persons think that the university belongs to a certain class, and everything possible should be done to get rid of such a mistaken idea. When we consider what civilization owes to universities which have done much by freely helping clever men irrespective of class, the people of any State should feel that they have special interest in their own, and assist it with all the means in their power.

Revision of Salaries.

Teachers in our State should feel glad, as doubtless they are, that they work under such a good education system. In England, where the system is "the best in the world," trouble has once more arisen over salaries. Mr. Wood, the late President of the Board of Education, asked the Burnham committees to meet again and draw up new scales for the payment of teachers. Any one reading the reports from various counties soon becomes aware that instead of one scale ruling all over England, each county has its own. There are four scales, and while a teacher under the J.C.C. may be paid by the first, another in one of the counties (say Devon) may have to rest content with the third. The Central Board ture by rates, and as the local council which raises another part of the expenditure by rates, and as the local council pays the teachers, it holds the power. Friction has often resulted because of a decision to pay a lower scale than the adjoining county, and teachers have actually gone out on strike, in consequence of what they considered gross injustice. A recent writer asks for the adoption of a single scale, and points out where it is superior to the present system. Teachers with similar training and experience are paid widely different rates, for no other reason than that they are under different local councils, and it may happen that the less efficient man receives the smaller pay. There is no system of classification, such as exists in South Australia, there is much discontent when promotions are made, for there is no definite system on which the choice is made. The considerations are efficiency, length of service, and character of the teaching given; but when one remembers that the inspectorial work is of the most perfunctory character, and that some schools are not visited for two or three years, who is to judge of the teacher's rights to promotion?

It is said that not a few teachers are disheartened by having been passed over, and take less interest in their duties as the time goes on. A reader of some of the local council reports is led to believe that there is a lack of educational experts on some of the councils, and that others have got into a groove along which they continue to run. We do things better in our own State, and one becoming acquainted with the discontent in many parts of England feels glad that we have a single scale of salaries, that the inspectorial staff is efficient, and the general oversight in very capable hands.

Rhodes Scholars.

It is said that less interest is taken in the Rhodes Scholars than was formerly the case. If this be so, the lack of information available to the public may have been the cause. The work of the trust should call for attention in all English-speaking countries, for the great influence it has exerted, and the hope of much-extended influence in the future. When these men, who have lived and studied together, and have learned something of the opposite point of view from their own, become persons of note in their respective lands, they may be able to settle important diplomatic problems with forbearance and wisdom. The allowance of £350 per annum does not cover expenses, and the holder of a scholarship must be prepared to supplement this with £50 a year. In 1919 some Americans decided to invite some English students to engage in a year's post-graduate study at one of the universities, or in American works. Twelve