

Gold

Register

23 AUG 1924

Gold

AUSTRALASIAN PARLIAMENT OF SCIENCE.

PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF MANKIND.

ADELAIDE CONFERENCE TO BEGIN ON MONDAY.

The seventeenth conference of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science will begin its business sessions at the University on Monday.

The main aim of the association is to extend the usefulness of science, both in promoting the material and the social welfare of mankind. Scientific research is similar to other work properly conducted, in that it craves no fame, neither does it seek to protect itself with patent rights. It is modest even in the face of its own epoch-making discoveries; it gives to the world freely, without speculation. It seeks to educate by working in sympathy with the public generally, whose confidence and respect it secures by improving the material condition of mankind. The association seeks to establish a great affiliation of scientific societies, so that they may co-operate in a fashion somewhat like that of a phalanx, rather than the execution of individual, but necessarily limited advance. The multiplication of special scientific and technical institutions tends to divergence of interest, and to lack of co-operation through unfamiliarity with each other's methods.

Carrying Out the Work.

The Australasian association seeks to correct this by the establishment of biennial meetings at which all branches of science may meet and conduct their special business, while holding social intercourse with each other, and thus, by frequent meetings, the workers in these various societies and sections may become well known to each other. The association seeks to know the basic needs of all; it seeks to co-ordinate and correlate the work of all; and to act as spokesman for all in special and urgent matters where individual sectional interests may be labouring under definite disabilities. Thus chemistry, agriculture, forestry, meteorology, anthropology, and mineral resources may need public support, but each may have only a feeble voice on its own. Nevertheless, as the body collective of the association weighs its claims with the others, and considers its necessity more urgent than that of others, the association puts the case of the individual section or interest, with all the weight of the collected sciences, to the proper authorities. The great prestige of the association, which is so widely known, has only been obtained by the deliberate choice of the greatest and most eminent names in Australian and New Zealand science for leaders, and by the definite stand of the association in maintaining an impartial and rigorous examination of the relative merits of the cases presented for recommendation.

Inspiration and Education.

The association differs from the Australian National Research Council in a few points. The association is a public institution, beloved by the general public, who support it by individual small subscriptions to its biennial meetings. The Governments of the various States in which the biennial meetings are held always assist the finances in a most liberal manner. The association accomplishes its work by its power of inspiration through education, and by example. The Australian National Research Council, on the other hand, is a relatively small body of eminent scientists, who consider more recondite problems in scientific research by means of select committees. The council is not of a popular nature, but, as its name implies, it is expected to be a tower of strength in advising the Government in times of necessity, such as the American National Research Council is in the United States. It needs great financial endowment to conduct its legitimate work, which is of an extremely important nature. Both the Australasian Association and the National Research Council thus are seen to be complementary bodies, both of first-rate importance, the one as an educating influence with the general public at the same time that it undertakes research work; the other as a small highly-trained body, capable of tackling the most difficult problems, in national interests, in scientific research.

FUNCTIONS OF THE SECTIONS.

CARRYING ON THE RESEARCHES.

The association is conducted by a general committee—the general council—which appoints the officers to conduct the affairs of the association. Among the functions of the general committee, which is formed

of past and present Presidents of the sections, and of members who have advanced the knowledge of science by the publication of papers and other works, and a number of temporary members, are the determination of the place and date of the annual meeting, the appointment of the President and general officers, and the election of the council.

Selection of Research Work.

The actual scientific work of the association is conducted by sections constituted from time to time by the general committee, and it is competent for the sections to form subsections for special work. Each section has its own President, Vice-Presidents, and Secretary, and the executive work is conducted by a sectional committee. At the present time there are 13 sections and one subsection, as previously outlined. Perhaps one of the most important functions of the sections is the selecting of definite objects of research, in the promotion of which individual or concerted action may be usefully employed. They may further take into consideration those branches or aspects of knowledge on the state and progress of which reports are required, and may make recommendations, and nominate individuals or research committees, to whom the preparation of such reports or the task of research may be entrusted. These committees cover practically every branch of science by their researches, and their recommendations have resulted in many important movements for the advancement of science being inaugurated.

Professors in Charge.

- Those in charge of the various sections, and the secretaries to the sections are:—
- Section A (Astronomy, Mathematics, and Physics).—Professor D. M. Y. Sommerville, Wellington, N.Z. (President), Mr. R. S. Burdon, University, Adelaide (secretary).
- Section B (Chemistry).—Professor A. C. D. Rivett, Melbourne, Victoria (President), and Mr. G. D. Shaw, Department of Chemistry, Kintore avenue, Adelaide (secretary).
- Section B (Subsection Pharmacy).—Mr. E. E. Gryst, Exter (President), and Mr. O. H. Walter, Devon House, Pirie street, Adelaide (secretary).
- Section C (Geology and Mineralogy).—Professor H. C. Richards, Brisbane, Queensland (President), and Mr. C. T. Madigan, University, Adelaide (secretary).
- Section D (Zoology).—Professor W. E. Agar, Melbourne, Victoria (President), and Dr. D. W. Ties, University, Adelaide (secretary).
- Section E (Geography and History).—Capt. J. K. Davis, Melbourne, Victoria (President), and Messrs. W. Oldham and R. J. M. Clulas, University, Adelaide (secretary).
- Section F (Ethnology and Anthropology).—Mr. H. D. Skinner, Dunedin, New Zealand (President), and Dr. D. T. Campbell, Dental Department, Adelaide Hospital (secretary).
- Section G (Social and Statistical Science).—Professor D. B. Copeland, Hobart, Tasmania (President), and Mr. A. L. G. MacKay, University, Adelaide (secretary).
- Section H (Engineering and Architecture).—Professor H. E. Whitfield, Perth, Western Australia (President), and Mr. E. V. Clark, University, Adelaide (secretary).
- Section I (Sanitary Science and Hygiene).—Dr. J. S. Purdy, Sydney, N.S.W. (President), and Mr. S. C. Stenning, Central Board of Health, Adelaide (secretary).
- Section J (Mental Science and Education).—Mr. J. Nangle, Sydney, N.S.W. (President), and Dr. A. J. Schulz, University, Adelaide (secretary).
- Section K (Agriculture and Forestry).—Professor R. D. Watt, Sydney, N.S.W. (President), and Mr. W. J. Spafford, Department of Agriculture, Adelaide (secretary).
- Section L (Veterinary Science).—Dr. S. Dodd, Sydney, N.S.W. (President), and Dr. L. V. Bull, Adelaide Hospital (secretary).
- Section M (Botany).—Mr. L. Rodway, Hobart, Tasmania (President), and Mr. Geoffrey Samuel, University, Adelaide (secretary).

THE WEEK'S PROGRAMME.

IMPORTANT MATTERS LISTED.

A large number of important matters to Australia in general will be discussed at the conference. The week's programme

Monday, August 25.—Members and associate members register at the University in the morning. 12 noon.—Civic reception in the Adelaide Town Hall by the Lord Mayor. Afternoon.—Short excursions for those not attending meeting of the general council. General council meets at University. Evening.—Retiring President (Sir George Knibbs) inducts President-elect (Sir John Monash), and latter delivers his presidential address on "Power development."

Tuesday, August 26.—Sectional meetings at the University will commence with the delivery of presidential addresses in the morning in sections A (astronomy, mathematics, and physics); B, (chemistry), C (geology and mineralogy); H (engineering and architecture); I (sanitary science and hygiene); L (veterinary science); and M (botany). In the afternoon the presidential addresses will be delivered in sections D (zoology); E (geography and history); G (social and statistical science); and J (mental science and education). Afternoon, short excursions. Evening, reception by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Tom Bridges) at Government House.

Wednesday.—Morning.—Sectional meetings at the University will be continued, and presidential addresses be given in subsection B (pharmacy), and sections F (ethnology and anthropology); and K (agriculture and forestry). At the same session there will be a joint meeting of the astronomy, mathematics, and physics, and the chemistry sections to discuss "Valence and the theory of atomic structure." Afternoon.—Further meetings of sections and excursions. Evening.—Mr. E. T. Fisk will deliver a public lecture on "Recent developments in wireless communication" in the Town Hall.

Thursday, August 28.—Morning.—Sectional meetings at the University continued. At this session there will be a joint meeting of the geology and mineralogy, zoology, geography and history, and botany sections to discuss "The problems of the Great Barrier Reef and the progress of investigation." The President of the association (Sir John Monash) will give a reception in the Town Hall in the afternoon. Evening.—Free.

Friday, August 29.—Section meetings at the University will be continued in the morning. At this session there will be a joint meeting of the chemistry and engineering and architecture sections to discuss "The influence of small quantities of impurities on the physical properties of metals." The Lord Mayor will be at home to members of the association in the Town Hall in the afternoon. In the evening Capt. G. H. Pitt Rivers will deliver a public lecture on "Vanishing races" in the Town Hall.

Saturday, August 30.—The general council will meet in the morning, and week-end excursions will start.

THE SECTIONAL ADDRESSES.

The sectional addresses to be delivered at the congress are as follow:—"The development of the ideas of space and time," by Professor D. M. Y. Sommerville to the astronomy section on Monday morning; "Volcanic activity in Queensland," by Dr. H. C. Richards, to the geology section; "Pharmaceutical progress," by Mr. E. F. Gryst, to the pharmaceutical subsection of the chemistry section on Wednesday; "Sailing directions," by Capt. K. H. Davis, to the geography section; "The origin and relationships of the material culture and decorative art of the Maoris of New Zealand," by Mr. H. D. Skinner, to the ethnology section; "Efficiency in modern life," by Professor H. Whitfield, to the engineering section; "Vitamines and fruit in diet," by Professor Purdy, in the sanitary science section; "Vocational guidance," by Professor J. Nangle, in the mental science section; "Problems of the world's food supply," by Professor R. D. Watt, to agriculture section; "Cancer in the domesticated animals," by Mr. C. Dodd, to the veterinary science section; "Ecologic conditions of vegetation in Tasmania," to the botany section, by Mr. L. Rodway.

voluntary bodies might provide the grounds, but their maintenance should be in the hands of the permanent authorities. The municipal authorities had made it illegal for play to take place in the streets, therefore, it was obligatory on them to provide some place where play was lawful. Dr. Pilleine, in thanking the lecturer, told him that the Lord Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. C. R. J. Glover) had provided two playgrounds for children, and a member of the club (Mr. J. M. Reid) had given one at Hindmarsh. Also in the City of Adelaide, no child had to walk more than 200 yards to reach the park lands or one of the city squares, where they could indulge in the playing of small games.

Register

23 AUG 1924



PROFESSOR R. W. CHAPMAN, of the Adelaide University, who broadcasted a speech from Mr. E. J. Hume's station on Thursday evening.

A BIG NIGHT AT 5 DON N.

History was also made on Thursday night, when a most ambitious programme of entertainment was provided by Mr. E. J. Hume. The feature of the evening, of course, was Professor Chapman's speech. Every experienced listener in will agree that there is a great difference in the carrying power of voices over the ether, some voices which in ordinary conversation we would describe as powerful, being anything but such when it comes to speaking per medium of the microphone. Professor Chapman is to be congratulated on being the possessor of a voice which carries exceedingly well, and, therefore, his address (dealing with the wonders of electricity and the romance of civilized progress) was clearly heard by all listeners in.

Nowadays, when a receiving set can be made almost with a sardine tinopener and a clockspring, transmission is heard with various degrees of success, but any listener in who has anything to complain about regarding Thursday night's transmission of both speech and music must blame nothing but his own set. Steady, not too loud speech, with a minimum of variation for expression, is essential for broadcast speech. Professor Chapman must have known this, for when he "tried his hand," as he termed it, it proved to be a very good hand indeed, and although he expressed perturbation at being unable to know whether his unseen audience were bored, unsympathetic, or had had enough, he can rest assured that none of them exhibited any of these symptoms. I took the whole of it down in shorthand, and enjoyed it immensely. I shall treasure those notes as being of the first speech of its kind broadcasted in this State.