

IDEALS IN EDUCATION

English Methods Commended

MISS HARDY RETURNS

From a pleasure trip of eight months spent in England, France, Italy, Switzerland, and Belgium, Miss Mabel Hardy, B.A., returned to Adelaide by the Maloja. She enquired into methods of teaching abroad.

"Schools in England," she said, "are remarkably well organised. There is usually a head mistress, senior mistress, and various expert subject mistresses in charge of each department. Boarding schools seldom have more than 25 girls in each house, and the house mistress has full charge of and responsibility for them while the head mistress supervises all houses.

"There is much co-operation between members of the staff in each school and also between the school and the parents. For example, at Enfield County School the Parents' Association is of so much help that neither the school council nor the head mistress takes any step of importance without consulting it.

VARIED SYSTEMS

"Systems of education are most varied. The general opinion of wise head mistresses is that it is not the system that matters but the personality of those who administer it. Work in the upper classes is of a far higher standard than in Australia. I was particularly impressed with the good work done in English and in compiling local history. Great attention is paid to handwork and domestic training.

"Games are important and most schools have a long lunch hour to give time for games. I was surprised to find that all schools of importance have swimming baths and that hockey has been largely superseded by lacrosse. I was told that this was because the latter is considered more graceful and less dangerous.

CREDIT WHERE IT IS DUE

"My theory and that of many leading modern schools in England is that these problems can be solved as follows:—By giving as much credit to other forms of attainment as is commonly given to the passing of examinations and the winning of school colors. The more varied the school activities the more chances there are of each child being able to develop its own particular talent. By a carefully-chosen curriculum for slow and backward children so that they do not suffer the disadvantage of always being in competition with younger and cleverer ones.

"May I quote an extract from the report of a committee appointed by the London Board of Education?—'Education is not the same thing as information—it is guidance in the acquiring of experience. We state what appears to us an incontrovertible primary fact, that for English children no form of knowledge can take precedence of English language and literature.'

REG. 7-9-26

MEDICAL RESEARCH.

Help from America.

MELBOURNE, Monday.

The invitation by the Rockefeller Foundation of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Melbourne (Professor R. J. Berry) to visit the United States, in order to discuss with the board of that organization the proposal to establish a Medical Research Institute in Research Chairs, in connection with the erection of a new hospital, was dealt with to-day by the council of the University of Melbourne.

Sir James Barrett provoked long discussion by moving an amendment that the visit should be postponed until the Ministry had come to a decision regarding the Bill authorising the resumption of the suggested site for the institute—Carlton Oval.

Professor Berry said that the Board of the Foundation was fully aware that the plan hung upon a proposed Act of Parliament. If the amendment was carried it could say "good-bye" to the Rockefeller Foundation for the next 50 years. If he had convinced the board of the justice of the plan, and if the board was prepared to assist, was the whole plan to be stopped by "some twopenny-half-penny bit of land at Carlton." Did the council realize what it would mean if "came off." The Ministry was going to provide a large sum for the erection of a hospital. He was hoping for a very large sum for a medical research institute, and donations for the establishment of research chairs. Instead of debating the acceptance or postponement he would have liked to have seen the council passing a vote of thanks to the Rockefeller Foundation for having given him the invitation.

There was practically no support for Sir James Barrett's amendment, which was rejected by the council as soon as the Chairman put the question. Professor Berry will accordingly accept the invitation.

REG. 7-9-26

THE OLD SHOWGROUNDS.

Problem of Utilizing Them.

The whole question of the future of the Jubilee Oval and the old showgrounds has been altered, through the removal of the Royal Agricultural Society to Wayville.

The Premier (Hon. L. L. Hill), when questioned on Monday, regarding the position in respect to the application of the University for an increased area of ground, and that of the University Undergraduates for land on which to erect a Union Building, said that the Gunn Government promised an area to the union, but a difficulty had arisen, owing to the presence in the centre of the land of the old railways produce shed. The Adelaide Drive Bowling Club had also asked for an increased area. Arrangements had been made for the Teachers' College to have the use of the Jubilee Oval, and the Education Department would reimburse the Public Works Department for the concession. The matter had been hung up because a difference of opinion existed between the Railways Commissioners and the Architect-in-Chief (Mr. A. E. Simpson) regarding the valuation of the property.

"I am most anxious to get the matter cleared up," said the Minister, "so as to ensure to the University an increased area for the extension of the activities of that institution. Three or four years ago the Government promised that when the Royal Agricultural Society withdrew, the land would be made available for University purposes, and the present Government intends to carry out that promise, and to overcome the difficulties of dedicating the land to the University.



Visitors examining the Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder at Urrbrae. This instrument records exactly how much sunshine Urrbrae has each day.

REG. 7-9-26

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A graceful compliment has been received from Cork, Irish Free State, by Mr. J. T. Smyth, B.A., B.E., of Glenelg. He is a Fermoy boy, and received the greater part of his education at Queen's College, Cork, which is now named University College. Mr. Smyth, who was born in 1846, matriculated at the age of 15 years. He gained his degrees of B.A. and B.E., and when he came to Australia he found no scope for his engineering talents, and therefore entered the South Australian Education Department. He gave to an interviewer from The Register an extremely interesting account of his experiences, which was published on Monday, June 10. Mr. Smyth sent a copy of the interview and a letter to the registrar of the University College, who was so much attracted by the narrative that he passed it on to the leading paper of the south of Ireland, The Cork Examiner, which reprinted the greater part of it. Mr. Smyth has received the following answer:—"Dear Sir—I thank you for your letter. I am very pleased indeed to hear from one who has been such a notable link with the past of this institution. I will place your name on the roll of the college. I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the local paper, in which I got published the article which you so kindly sent me. I am also sending you copies of our current calendar and sessional lists and the handbook of our college. Reviews in this booklet will, I hope, interest you and bring back memories of the time you spent here. With best wishes. Yours, &c., Alfred O'Rahilly."



Mr. L. M. W. Judell, B.Sc., F.S.A.S.M.,

Proprietor of The Review at Jamestown for the past six years. He takes an active part in town affairs, and holds a number of public positions, including secretary of the Belalie Agricultural Society. He also takes a keen interest in the welfare of the Jamestown High School and in local sporting bodies.

ADU. 7-9-26

REG. 8-9-26

THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS.

CONSERVATORIUM CONCERTS.

The whole question of the future of the Jubilee Oval and the old show grounds has been altered through the removal of the Royal Agricultural Society to Wayville, and the application of the University for an increased area of land, and that of the University Undergraduates for a block on which to erect a union building. Land had been promised, but a difficulty had arisen owing to the location of the old railways produce depot. The Adelaide Bowling Club also wanted more land. The Teachers' College had been granted the use of the Jubilee Oval under an arrangement between the Education Department and the Department of Public Works. A difference of opinion had arisen between the Railways Commissioners and the Architect-in-Chief regarding the valuation of the land. Mr. Hill said he was most anxious to get the matter cleared up as some years ago land had been promised the University for extension purposes, and that promise the Government hoped to see fulfilled.

From "MOTORS AND HEADLIGHTS" As there are spacious grounds in front of our Conservatorium, and our citizens are, or ought to be, greatly interested in the concerts held there, would it not be possible to arrange for pedestrians to have a two yards' path from one of the gates to the steps of Elder Hall, absolutely free from motors, either going towards it, building, or parking, or returning from it? Adelaide is so well built that accidents are quite a late introduction to our city, and it would be easy to make the attendance at the Elder Hall as safe as walking on a street pavement. The grass before the hall is nicely protected from traffic now, and the gravel is left for motors and pedestrians, and pedestrians save to wind their way in and out of motors, going both ways, and the headlights add to the difficulty of doing this in safety. The hall is large enough to accommodate a good attendance, indeed, some say too large for chamber music, so the comfort of those who wish to attend is worth considering.



Miss Mabel Hardy, B.A.

Who has returned to Adelaide impressed with the organisation of schools in England.

"Buildings and equipment I found not very different from, or in most cases in advance of Australia, but in senior classes tables have taken the place of the old cramped desks. Almost every modern school has subject rooms instead of class rooms."

BACKWARD CHILDREN ASSISTED

Before going abroad Miss Hardy was senior mistress at Woodlands Church of England Grammar School at Glenelg. Prior to that she was at Bowral branch of Sydney Church of England Grammar School in New South Wales.

Speaking of modern education she said, "There is something fundamentally unjust in a system that gives all its praise and rewards to a small minority—those who excel in languages or games. In Australia there is the further problem that, especially in boarding schools, there is always a certain number of unusually backward children from the bush, and also, owing to labor problems, a practical education is what most parents desire for their children.

The results everywhere of schools not solving these problems are:—The brilliant child tends to rate the mere acquiring of assorted information far too highly and to belittle all other attainments. The dull child develops an inferiority complex, and unless he or she is good at games which receive recognition and praise at school some otherway will be sought of proving superiority to the others. This usually leads to some form of naughtiness and we get the problem of the 'difficult' child.