

At a meeting of the Council of the University on Friday, the recommendation of the Faculty of Medicine that Dr. Helen



Mayo should be granted the degree of M.D., without further examination, was approved. A favourable report was presented by the faculty on Dr. Mayo's thesis.

REG. 2-11-26 ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the Anthropological Society of South Australia on Monday evening, Dr. R. Palleine presided. Smoke signals, message sticks, and the birth of the Australian aborigine were discussed. Members were divided in their views as to whether smoke signals could be read or not. Mr. Aiston communicated a note in which he said that in the Cooper's Creek district the signals were usually prearranged. The blacks used green boughs to make and control the smoke. Smoke puffs were used to acknowledge the receipt of the signals. Dr. Campbell said that an aborigine who went out from Killalpaninna became in need of water. His smoke signal was read by his fellows at the camp, and supplies were taken out to him. The Ooldea natives could also tell from the smoke signals when the Kulata natives were in need of water. Professor F. Wood Jones directed attention to a paper by Magarey (1894), who set out a definite code of signals. Dr. Morgan pointed out that at the time many bushmen contradicted Magarey's statements in the press. Mr. Tindale said the Ingura men often made guesses regarding the meaning of signals at a distance, and they were frequently wrong. Mr. Mountford showed several Larrakia message sticks, and detailed the messages. One was received from Melville Island by a Larrakia man, who pointed out several marks at each end as having a definite meaning. On reversing the stick he repeated the message, starting from the wrong end, showing that the message was a verbal one. Mr. Aiston said that in the Cooper's Creek district there were two types of message sticks, namely, the letter sticks and the reminder stick, and gave illustrations of each. Professor Wood Jones supported the idea of their being two types by quotations from literature. He also exhibited a stick given to Mrs. Barr Smith over 40 years ago by a young blackfellow, who received it from his father in Queensland. The son understood the message inscribed upon it. Dr. Palleine quoted Roth, who did not believe in any message being present on message sticks, but regarded them merely as passports, or signs of good faith. Professor Wood Jones opened the discussion on aboriginal children at birth. He maintained that no really good description existed of a new-born child. Different writers and observers had described the colour of the skin as anything from white to light purplish. Dr. Naylor forwarded some notes on several births at Penong on the west coast. Mr. Christie related some experiences in the Northern Territory. New-born children at Cape Don were often laid out on the hot sand in the sun for several hours. They were rubbed with charcoal and fat because the mothers wished them to become black as soon as possible. When first born they were nearly white, with a darker patch on the forehead. Many members took part in a general discussion on the papers. Mr. Stapleton drew attention to the urgent need for preserving native rock paintings and carvings in South Australia. Acts of vandalism were reported by several members, and a committee was formed to report on the best means of carrying out protective measures.

ADV. 3/11/26 RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE.

A permanently-endowed scholarship for research in agriculture is advocated by the professor of agricultural chemistry at the Adelaide University (Professor J. A. Prescott). He points out that the most successful men in Australia to-day have been students at a university. Through the lack of suitable men it has been found necessary to go to Victoria and New South Wales to fill a position at the Waite Research Institute. Men have not come forward from Roseworthy College to take the University course because in the past it has been found difficult to secure positions for those who have completed their studies. This difficulty should be overcome, not so much by guaranteeing the men jobs, as by developing the service in the Department of Agriculture on the instructional, advisory, and research sides at the Waite Institute so that they would be absorbed more readily.

EXPENDITURE ON AGRICULTURE.

The Budget for 1926-27 discloses a sum of £49,072 spent on agricultural research, experiment and incidental expenses involved. It is satisfactory to note that not only is this well within the sum granted last year, but only a small proportion is absorbed in actual administration. The upkeep of the Department of Agriculture cost about £14,000. Dairy supervision cost about £2,200, while the approximate expenditure on the various experiment farms was as follows:—Veitch, £2,400; Turretfield, £384; Eyre Peninsula, £3,800; Booborowie, £3,400; and Kybybolite, £4,000. The administrative cost of the poultry section of the department was £1,400, including prizes to show societies, while the Parafield farm cost £3,800. The total expenditure on horticultural operations was about £11,000, of which the Hackney and Coromandel orchards absorbed £2,200, and the Berri orchard £3,500. An an set-off to the expenditure, sale of produce returned £17,700 to the Government, although for the most part the various farms and orchards are not conducted on commercial lines, but for purposes of demonstration and experiment for the benefit of the farmers of the State generally. Roseworthy Agricultural College cost £22,198, and fees and produce yielded £5,500. The disbursement of £5,000 as a 5 per cent. grant to the University on Mr. Peter Waite's gift of £100,000 must also be reckoned in the sum devoted to fostering primary industries.

MAIL 30-10-26 SNAKE PARK

Adelaide's New Attraction

MR. A. K. MINCHIN'S PROJECT

The proposal of Mr. A. Keith Minchin that he should be allowed to establish a snake park on a vacant piece of land in the northern parklands has been ratified by the City Council and agreed to by a meeting of ratepayers.

Mr. Minchin hopes that he will be able to open the park toward the end of the year or early in 1927.

Mr. Minchin's plans for establishing a snake park in the vicinity of Adelaide were fully outlined in "The Mail" on April 24. He stated yesterday that the promise then made that he would supply free of charge to any Australian laboratories requiring snake poison for making anti-venom still held good. In addition to doing that Mr. Minchin said he was hopeful of educating the people in the direction of being able to discriminate between the different species of reptiles.

"Death is sometimes caused by fright," he stated, "and people go to their graves in the belief that they had been bitten by a venomous snake when in reality it was only a harmless species. In Africa, I remember a boy was bitten. The father without hesitating chopped off the finger to which the snake had fastened, but afterward, to his regret, found that the bite was that of a non-venomous reptile."

To become curator of the snake park Mr. C. J. French, who was lecturer at the Capetown University on reptiles and insects, is expected to arrive at Adelaide before the end of the year.

FOND OF SNAKES

"I have never seen a man who was so fond of snakes as Mr. French," Mr. Minchin said. "He makes pets of them and handles the most deadly and vicious species without betraying the least sign of fear. Mr. French will handle the snakes for the education of visitors to the park and will give demonstrations to show how to extract the poison from them."

Mr. Minchin hopes to have on view a collection of snakes representative of almost every country in the world, and it will include a 20-ft. python. Already he has in Adelaide the nucleus of his collection in several deadly reptiles, including the puff adders, coral snakes, egg-eating snakes, boomshang of Africa, and other species.

A shipment of snakes from India is on its way to South Australia and should arrive some time next month. An order for reptiles representative of North and South America has also been placed. Mr. French is also bringing out a collection of snakes from Africa.

When the snake park is established it is believed that it will be the only one of its kind in the Commonwealth.

REG. 6/11/26

The Council of the University of Adelaide has received with great regret the resignation of Professor F. Wood Jones as Elder Professor of Anatomy. Professor Wood Jones has accepted an invitation from the President of the University of Hawaii to take up anthropological work in Honolulu, under the Rockefeller Foundation.

EDUCATING WORKERS

Programme for Next Year

At a meeting of the joint committee of Adelaide University and the Workers' Educational Association, which was held yesterday, it was decided to hold 19 classes in the city, suburbs, and country next year. There will also be a study circle and monthly lectures at different centres. One class at Freeling, five at Renmark, and one at Colonel Light Gardens will be discontinued.

It was proposed to inaugurate lectures in some branch of science during 1927. The subject has not yet been decided. Classes will be continued at Gawler, and one at Riverton will be held weekly. Trades Hall classes will also be continued. Principal E. S. Kiek, M.A., will start a class in "International Relations."

The Rev. L. C. Parkin, M.A., B.D., was appointed lecturer in psychology. Mr. Parkin has consented to take one class, and may direct two. Dr. A. C. Garnett, M.A., Litt.D., who has been granted leave of absence for a year, was formerly tutor in psychology.

ADV. 5-11-26

The following members of the Council of the University of Adelaide will retire on November 9, in accordance with the provisions of the University Act:—Sir Langdon Bonython, Professor Robert William Chapman, Mr. William Taylor McCoy, Professor Edward Henry Rennie and Sir Joseph Vercoe. They are eligible for re-election. The resignations of Sir George Brookman and Professor Darnley Naylor have been received. The election of the warden and the clerk of the Senate will take place at the ordinary meeting on November 24.

REG. 5-11-26

UNIVERSITY SENATE ELECTIONS.

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Adelaide will be held on Wednesday, November 24. The following five members of the council will retire on November 9, in accordance with the provisions of the University Act:—Sir Langdon Bonython, Professor R. W. Chapman, Mr. W. T. McCoy, Professor E. H. Rennie, and Sir Joseph Vercoe. The resignations of Sir George Brookman and Professor H. Darnley Naylor, members of the council have been received. The election of the warden and the clerk of the senate, in addition to the elections due to the retirements and resignations mentioned, will take place at the November meeting. Nominations to fill the vacancies must reach the clerk of the senate (Mr. F. Eardley) not later than 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 13.

NEWS 5-11-26

LECTURES IN ECONOMICS

Mr. Mackay as Assistant

Mr. Alexander Leslie Gordon Mackay, M.A., M.Ec., Dip.Ed., who has been appointed director of tutorial classes for 1927 by the council of Adelaide University, has been associated with that institution as assistant lecturer in economics since 1923.

He was educated at Sydney University, where he received the bachelor of arts degree in 1916. He enlisted and won the Distinguished Conduct Medal at Peronne in the battle of Mont St. Quentin. At the conclusion of hostilities he became instructor in the Australian Imperial Forces education service. In this capacity he travelled through Belgium, France, Scotland, England, and South Africa.

On his return to Sydney he took the bachelor of economics degree with first-class honors, specialising in finance and credit. In 1920 he received his diploma of education. Three years later he joined the staff of Adelaide University. In 1924 he gained the degree of master of arts with a thesis on "psycho-synthesis." This year he was admitted master of economics for his thesis on "Banking and Credit Systems of Australia."

Mr. Mackay is lecturer in economics, public administration, and economic history at Adelaide University, and lecturer in economics to the Workers' Educational Association.

REG. 6/11/26

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PRESERVING FAUNA.

At a meeting of the Fauna and Flora Board in Adelaide on Thursday Professor Wood-Jones (hon. secretary) reported that during October he had liberated a wombat, 15 ringtailed opossums, and 50 stump-tailed or sleepy lizards on the Government Reserve at Flinders Chase, Kangaroo Island. It was noted as a curious fact that neither stump-tailed lizards nor ring-tailed opossums were natives of the island, nor was there any evidence that they had ever lived there. Wombats were now quite extinct on the island, but their remains were found in the bone deposits of Kelly's Caves. Professor Wood-Jones also reported that during November he proposed to take to the Chase two emus, a further lot of stump-tailed lizards and some more rat kangaroos, bred at the University, in Adelaide. It is desired to preserve the stump-tailed lizard in the reserve, since it is one of the most peculiar native reptiles, as well as one of the most useful, for its favourite diet is dandelion flowers and snails. The mallee fowls, presented by Mr. Frank Downer, were reported to be doing well in the enclosure, and since they had been on the Chase a pair of wild birds had twice been seen in the neighbourhood of the homestead. These are probably the descendants of those liberated on the reserve many years ago, and there is therefore every reason to hope that this bird is becoming established in the sanctuary. Six miles of fire-break, three chains wide, has been cut and burned off, and the homestead area and the animal enclosures are now practically safe from the threat of fire. A donation of £2 2/ from Sir Frank Moulden and Sir Joseph Vercoe was gratefully received, and the board expressed the hope that now the work was proceeding so satisfactorily the donations from those interested in the preservation of the fauna and flora would be more freely forthcoming.

REG. 6-11-26

GOLD IN ANTARCTIC.

Sir Edgeworth David's Assurance.

LONDON, November 4. Professor Sir Edgeworth David, lecturing before the Royal Institution of Great Britain to-day, said there was little doubt that gold existed on a large scale in the Antarctic, and was obtainable by following the Alaskan method of thawing out the gravel. Continuing, he paid a tribute to the late Sir Ernest Shackleton and to Sir Douglas Mawson. Undoubtedly, he added, Sir Ernest Shackleton had practically discovered the South Pole.

REG. 8/11/26

CANCER TREATMENT.

Definite Start in Sydney.

Commencing with a certain number of selected cases the University of Sydney proposes to carry out treatment of cancer, according to an official statement issued by the University.

Arrangements have been made for an early start. Money has been made available for the necessary apparatus from the Cancer Research Fund. The machinery required for radio therapy and deep X-ray treatment is being set up, and a start is to be made almost immediately.

If the initial experiments prove successful more and more money will be made available from the cancer fund.

The official statement issued by the University adds:—"It has to be admitted that treatment of advanced cancer other than by means of the surgeon's knife has met with disappointment. Our knowledge of the remedial value of radium and deep X-ray treatment is as yet strictly limited. This being so, treatment of cancer should be along lines calculated to assist and synchronise with the efforts now being made by cancer research investigators in the University of Sydney and elsewhere."

NEWS 6-11-26

Geological Inspection

Under the guidance of Mr. C. T. Madigan, M.A., members of Gawler branch of the Workers' Educational Association visited Hallett Cove. During an inspection of the cove Mr. Madigan gave the visitors much geological information.