

JUNGLE EPIC

New Britain Murders

DOCTOR'S VIVID STORY

Over the wounded body of his comrade, an Australian stood defying savage murderers; and out of the jungle another staggered to help him, only to be riddled with spears.

This was one instance in a vivid story of the New Guinea murders related by Dr. Cilento, who was a member of the punitive expedition which set out to capture the murderers in the wild districts of Nakani, New Britain. He has reached Melbourne to attend the Health Conference as Director of Public Health in New Guinea.

The natives had had a skirmish with a companion of Dr. Cilento's, he said, and then became hostile. While the news of the skirmish was being taken to headquarters, another party of six reached the hostile area in search for gold.

The six men—Nicholls, Britten, Marley, Fischer, Page, and Collins—erected a hut on a high hill. It seemed safe because it was surrounded by almost impenetrable jungle.

TRAGEDY RECONSTRUCTED

The punitive expedition reconstructed the tragedy, and we are certain that this is what must have happened, said Dr. Cilento (in the course of an interview with a Melbourne paper).

Evidently they were seated inside the hut, three each side of a small table, with Collins at one end. He received a spear in his leg, and staggered out of the hut wrenching at the weapon. Marley jumped to his feet, snatched his revolver, and standing over his friend who had fallen down outside fired at the oncoming natives. Immediately they retreated and the others leaped for safety. Nicholls and Britten escaped into the jungle. Page was run down and killed—he had been wounded.

SHOWER OF SPEARS

Fischer then went to the assistance of Marley (who was now injured himself) and Collins, but a shower of spears killed him. And then Marley fell—alongside Collins.

Then the natives commenced a frenzied war dance, and riddled the lifeless bodies of the four Australians with spears. But presently they deserted the place.

Dr. Cilento concluded that after a clash at Umu, the natives retreated from the punitive party sent as a result of the first news of the murders brought by a wounded "boy." The natives have completely disappeared since.

A force of native police under the command of District Officer Taylor and A. D. O. Ellis have established a station in the area, and their message to the natives is:—We, the Government, are here, and we want peace. But first of all we must have the men who murdered our countrymen.

"And they will—if it takes three months," added Dr. Cilento.

THE NEWS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1926

HIGH-PRESSURE EDUCATION

(By Harry Thomson)

At a time when the newspapers are giving prominence to various Speech Days a mere parent is strongly reminded of Samuel Butler's remark, "A hen is merely an egg's way of producing another egg." Presumably a rooster is even less important in the scheme of things. However that may be, one is forced to ask sometimes, on reading examination and prize lists, whether there are not being produced too many "masters of all trades."

The criticism is worth enquiring into in both secondary schools and the University. Concerning the medical school at the University, for example, feeling is beginning to creep in that perhaps it is turning out too competent "tradesmen." The term is chosen deliberately. The course at the Medical School is now for six years. It covers more subjects than an unlearned person can pronounce, and it has been said that they are taught too much as subjects.

Life Study

Any one of a dozen "subjects" can in practice become a life study. Eye, ear, nose, and throat specialists, and so on have to spend hours a week merely to keep conversant with their own particular branches. Yet at the University an effort is made to teach not only a smattering but a great deal in all these and a score of other departments. The curriculum becomes more and more loaded as medical science progresses and the lecture list gets longer and longer.

As a result a great many of the fifth and sixth year medical students have to forsake their ordinary week-day cricket or football training to get in a 5 o'clock lecture or because they are too tired to do the several hours' study in the evening which seems to be demanded. This has been stated on more than one occasion to the Rhodes Selection Committee and similar bodies. It appears true and if true is wrong. No University course should take all the working hours of day and night in attending lectures or doing set tasks. That way lie bad assimilation and mental (often moral, too) indigestion. The older English Universities make almost a fetish of hours to play and hours to idle, as well as hours to work—and history has not proved that they are wrong.

Views and Prejudices

The years at a University are in most cases the only years in the whole of life when there is time to think and reflect, and thereby form the views and prejudices which are to last for all time. That is the wider view. But in the narrower sense of turning out a good professional man there is something to be said also for not overloading the vessel with too much detail. So many scientific textbooks on special subjects exist that lectures which go beyond the mere indication of principle are often sheer waste of time.

It is no easier and no more useful to summarise many special subjects in a lecture than to reduce Hamlet to a phrase. The fault is really due to a too conscientious attempt to keep pace with the rapid advance in scientific knowledge in recent years, and is by no means confined to either the Medical School or to the local University. Probably there are 99 good and valid reasons why no curtailment of these courses can be made. The only reply is an apology for thinking it unfortunate that a University student should so soon be transformed into a tradesman, and unfortunate also that technique should be regarded as the one important thing.

Useless Knowledge

Lower in the educational scale a critic is walking on no less dangerous ground. The Education Department has proceeded on right lines in providing Technical Schools and Domestic Economy Centres, but the amount of useless knowledge accumulated by most of us adults and either forgotten or deliberately discarded is enormous, and makes one wonder whether much of it need ever have been acquired at all.

"The Humanities" are the last things in the world to be decried, but the Latin that stops at Caesar Book I, and the Greek that consists of an arduous wading through a little Xenophon and stops there do not give a wide insight into the beauty of the classics, and not five per cent. of children can in the nature of things go beyond that.

Eight or nine subjects for a leaving examination accomplished by two or three hours' homework nightly is utterly wrong. To the cry of too early specialisation the reply is that a selection of subjects is not necessarily specialisation.

Probably a much wider door to the beauties of both the ancient and modern worlds can be opened by taking merely literature or history in the proper way than by combining these with half a dozen other more or less disconnected subjects and "cramming" the lot.

In this connection there is a whole world of truth in the oft-repeated remarks of the head master of St. Peter's College—that the schools and colleges are too much tied to public examinations and that often these interfere with the real plan of education. It is no doubt due to the highly competitive spirit—for it is even said that schools must pay—but while competition may be the lifeblood of commerce there is such a thing as suffering from too high blood pressure.

OLDEST LAW STUDENT

Success of Mr. W. Donnithorne

GAINS DEGREE AT 48

Mr. William Donnithorne, LL.B., of Stamford street, Parkside, who obtained his degree at the University Commemoration, is the oldest law student who has passed through Adelaide University. Few other universities in the world can point to a law student who entered on his course at the age of 44, and com-



MR. W. DONNITHORNE, LL.B.

who is the oldest law student to have passed through the University of Adelaide. He is 48 years of age and obtained his degree this week.

pleted it when he was 48 years old. The former holder of the record in South Australia began his course when he was 40.

Mr. Donnithorne has no definite idea of starting a legal practice. He took the strenuous law course merely for the sake of the mental exercise involved. In 1911 he retired from active business, and has since devoted himself exclusively to study. It was during a term of study that he conceived the idea of qualifying as a lawyer on the advice of his coach.

Although he did not have the same spur as the ordinary student taking up a profession he went into it wholeheartedly. In addition to attending lectures and studying conscientiously at the University he articulated himself to the legal firm of Newman & Harris.

Studied Literature and Art

"Life is not a matter of eternally chasing wealth," he declared in an interview. "Having made sufficient to ensure oneself against want," he said, "it is time to take up the study of literature and art. What is the use of wearing oneself out in the pursuit of riches and retiring when too old to enjoy anything or to take up any study?"

Mr. Donnithorne is keenly interested in painting. His principal medium is oils. In 1921 he took a trip abroad to widen his field of study, and spent most of his time in the art galleries and art schools of Britain and the Continent. He has exhibited at the South Australian Society of Arts.

Another hobby is the collection of antiques, particularly furniture. He is the proud possessor of a clock, made in 1700, of Cornish origin.

Mr. Donnithorne, although a South Australian by birth, is an enthusiastic member of the Cornish Association, of which he is secretary.

Retired at Early Age

Literature, particularly of the English classical school, occupies much of his time. In his own home he has assembled a good library, although his law studies, to quote his own words, have involved him in many "dry books" during the past four years, and have greatly lessened his time for reading. Literary society work is another of his interests.

Mr. Donnithorne was born at Angaston, South Australia. He is the eldest son of the late Mr. W. Donnithorne, of Redruth, Cornwall.

After having completed his education at Angaston and Norwood Public Schools he entered business. In this sphere he was sufficiently successful to retire at an exceptionally early age, and since then he has devoted himself to the pursuit of the gentler arts.

Sports do not appeal to him. His only

ained their evening suits. The programme had been arranged as a series of races, with track-stewards, stipendiary stewards, and jockeys. The audience had been appointed judges, and as there was evidently a happy feeling that it was all among friends, the gentlemen in the gallery counted the performers out on the slightest provocation, or on none at all. Mr. Jack Glover, who took a leading part in nearly every item, cleverly turned the joke by consulting his watch, and remarking "Two seconds late," whereon they counted him in again.

"An American Bar" was an amusing scene with Misses Mary Angell and Verna Hackett as two up-to-date young flappers, and Mr. Bill Hanson as a realistic bartender. Miss Blanche Schneider's "Synopation Handicap," with a male ballet, was a smart item, and the lady is evidently a favorite.

"The Barcelona Steeplechase" was the most spectacular number, about a dozen sweet girl graduates appearing in fringed Spanish shawls, which, in some instances, showed a good deal of underclothing, and a lot more of the ladies. Mr. Glover, as a Spanish senorita, in an elaborate wig and embroidered shawl, caused roars of laughter, and Mr. George Letcher and Mr. Bill Hanson were a glib pair of toreadors. Miss Angell and Miss Hackett led the "shawl parade" in sprightly fashion, and the number ended without any of the shawls coming off. "The Sanitary Band" was a smart take off of a recent visiting combination, and the conductor (Mr. Creagh Smeaton) even managed to conduct with his left leg after the manner of Mr. Santrey himself. The boys contrived to draw more noise from their instruments than any ordinary bandmen would have dared to do.

"Black Ballast" was an amusing skit on "White Cargo," with Mr. Bruce Lawrence as a Witzel, with a penchant for bursting into song. Mr. George Letcher as Tondeloy would have put an end to the slave traffic for ever, and his vamping of "Buz Glue It" (Mr. Glover) was uproariously funny. A succession of Tondeloyes, who appeared to have obtained their sunburn from a boot brush completed the scene. The babies' ballet was another funny number with all the heavyweights embracing their infants. Topical allusions were popular, and nobody enjoyed the references to the Duchess of York's probable greeting of the Lord Mayor more than Mr. Wallace Bruce himself. Miss Thelma Baulderstone and Miss Edna Lawrence were popular, and their "straight" items were well received. Miss Threder Symons advised the lovelorn ones of the programme to "Wait till the morning after," and Mr. Bruce Lawrence was another favorite.

Miss Verna Hackett and Mr. George Letcher gave a smart rendering of "Little blue hat," in which the lady showed dance steps and underwear which were equally delectable. There was an excellent demonstration of the Charleston that was of quite a professional standard, and Mr. Bill Rungo amused everyone with his quips. He informed the medical students that they had chosen a dying profession, and the dental students were assured that theirs would be a hand to mouth living. He was responsible for smart lightning sketches.

Those taking part in the programme were:—Committee, Messrs. Jack Glover (secretary), Haynes Leader, Bruce Lawrence, Keith McKenzie (business manager), and George Letcher, and Misses Mary Angell, Verna Hackett; track stewards (sweets and programmes), Misses Margaret Hackett, Isobel Hackett, Hildred Morris, Edna Dorsch, and Magdalen Dorsch; "stipendiary stewards" (orchestra), Mr. Eric McLaughlin (musical director), Miss Pal Foote (pianist); "time keeper" (stage manager), Mr. Frank Johnson; "participating jockeys," Misses Blanche Schneider, Threder Symons, Dorothy Congreve, Jean McKay, Madeline Angel, Marjorie Small, Isobel Kelly, Marjorie Kelly, Marion Fisher, Edna Lawrence, and Maudie Johnson, and Messrs. Bill Hanson, Roy Krantz, Sid Krantz, Jim Irwin, Creagh Smeaton, Lum Rymill, Bill Morgan, Alec Dawkins, Lindsay Dawkins, Mick Kelly, Gavin Crabbe, Doug Verco, Norm Gunning, Mostyn Skinner, Mervyn Smith; "totalizer ticket clerks," Messrs. Bill Wagner and Shan Page.

NEWS 22-12-26

The following have been appointed resident medical officers for interchange duty at the Adelaide Hospital and other institutions as required:—Drs. J. E. Hughes, R. H. Kaines, B. S. Muecke, and G. Tassie.