

RECENT ACTIVITIES.

The Vice-President of the Executive Council (Senator Pearce) stated yesterday that a cable message had been received from Sir Frank Heath (secretary of the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research), indicating that the British Department would be glad to open its laboratories to four promising Australian graduates in science. Three young research workers would accordingly be sent from Australia in the near future. Of these Mr. Vickery, M.Sc. (Melbourne) will leave on the Ormonde and would go to Cambridge, where many problems relating to the cold storage and transport of foods were being studied. It was also hoped that two other investigators—Mr. J. R. Duzan, B.Sc., B.E. (Sydney), and Mr. L. J. Rogers, B.E. (Perth) would shortly leave for the British Fuel Research Station at Greenwich. In addition to the foregoing several additional graduates in other branches of science would be sent at a later date. It was a matter for congratulation that the British Department viewed the matter of Empire research from such a broad point of view, for its co-operation was invaluable to the Dominions. Senator Pearce also stated that approval had been given to the appointment of Mr. Gerald F. Hill as an entomologist on the staff of the Council for Research. Mr. Hill had had considerable experience in entomology, and had pursued his science in the Northern Territory, at the Institute of Tropical Medicine (Townsville), and in one or two positions in Melbourne. He was now stationed at the Melbourne Museum. At the present time entomology was an important study to Australia, in view of the large number of insect pests with which the country was afflicted. It was probable that Mr. Hill would make an early investigation of the pea mite and the underground grass grub. These pests were serious troubles in Tasmania, and in places were often responsible for destroying whole areas of peas and English grasses.

It was after this distinction had been definitely made that the English Mental Defectives Act, 1913, and the Education (Epileptics and Defectives Act) were passed. Meanwhile New Zealand had unreservedly accepted the report of the British Royal Commission and in 1911 rushed into legislation, including both classes under the term mentally deficient. South Australia followed New Zealand and Victoria in 1913 by repealing the Lunacy Act of 1864-68, and passing the Mental Defectives Act. This Act included persons of unsound mind, the mentally infirm, idiots and imbeciles, thus classing in one category the two distinct types. The Act provided a board which had control and supervision of institutions proclaimed as mental hospitals or receiving homes. It dealt with the detention and reception of patients, provided for treatment, inspection and discharge, and for the control of the criminal mental defective.

The present Act confused amentia and dementia. It made no provision for the large group of feeble-minded who most needed education, care, and control. The only institution proclaimed under it was the Parkside Mental Hospital and Enfield Receiving Home.

CLINIC ESTABLISHED

Tasmania in 1921 passed an Act which made possible the care and control of the feeble-minded and other mentally defective persons. It was based on the English and American Acts in that it excluded the insane and included the feeble-minded. It provided a board of control formed of medical, psychological and educational experts. Notification to this board of any suspected case had to be given by the Director of Education, the heads of all public and private schools, and the superintendents of institutions and hospitals. Under its authority a psychological clinic had been established for the purposes of diagnosis, classification, education and research. The classification of patients determined by medical, physical, pedagogical and psychological criteria, as well as social and legal. Methods of placement were those of supervision, guardianship and institutional care. By supervision was meant the voluntary caring for, assisting, protecting and overseeing of defectives not in institutions by a person, voluntary society, or committee with the approval of the board. Guardianship was the form of control exercised by a person as if he were the father of the defective when less than 14 years of age. Institutional care was a home, colony, or training school established for the control, care, treatment, instruction, employment and maintenance of defectives. These three forms of placement were now made interchangeable.

Tasmania had attempted to form a plan adequate to the problem. It aimed at ascertaining all defectives within the State and after ascertainment, of providing for the further problems of special education, care and protection. It had now been shown (especially in Massachusetts, that the feeble-minded, if properly cared for and trained throughout adolescence, could under supervision be returned to the community as self-respecting wage earners. The provision of such control and training was, therefore, of social and economic value to the State.

NEWS. 30.7.26.
STRENGTHENING MENTALITY

Special Care Aids Defectives

CONTROL ADVOCATED

Dr. Constance Davey gave an address at the Women's Non-Party Association Rooms, North terrace, this afternoon on "Social Control of the Mentally Deficient." She said that one of the most difficult and complex social problems was that of the mental deficient in the community. Considering the question historically, four stages in the attitude of the community toward the feeble-minded could be traced. The ancients treated it as a eugenic problem, and abandonment of idiots was countenanced in Sparta and Greece. The mental defective who grew to manhood was ostracised and shunned. In the middle ages they became the "fools of jesters," the "innocents," those "possessed of evil spirits."

In the early part of the nineteenth century a more scientific approach to the problem was made both in medicine and education and the work of Itard and Sequin was well known. The early part of this century began the alarmist period. Emphasis was placed on eugenics and a few hereditary studies, and new psychological methods brought to light the magnitude of this social problem.

The last 10 years had been another phase of the problem. Though still emphasising the danger aspect, this phase now struck a note of hope in that the greater proportion of the mentally deficient could, after adequate and proper training, be made to take its place in the community as wage-earners and useful citizens.

TWO DISTINCT TYPES

It was during the alarmist period that the British Royal Commission on the "care and control of the feeble-minded" took place from 1904-1908. This commission suggested that the word "lunatic" in the English Lunacy Act of 1800 be replaced by "mentally defective person," and that this term include:—Persons of unsound mind, persons mentally infirm, idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded, moral imbeciles, and defectives who were epileptic, inebriates, or deaf and dumb.

The British Parliament did not put the suggestions of this commission into law at once, for further discussion showed that there were two distinct types included under the term "mentally deficient." There were those who were "insane," or "mentally infirm," embracing those who had been sane and normal during childhood and youth but who had broken down. On the other hand there were those who from birth or early age had never developed—who always were and would be backward. To this class belonged the great group of the feeble-minded.



Mr. A. Grenfell Price, M.A.

who will speak on "The Settlement of Industrial Disputes" at St. Peter's Cathedral on Sunday evening.

Arranged by the Diocesan Social Union a course of addresses will be given at the Cathedral on Sunday evenings in August. The first will be on Sunday night, when Mr. A. Grenfell Price, M.A., and the Rev. John Warren will speak on "The Settlement of Industrial Disputes." Other speakers during the course will be:—The Hon. J. Gunn (Premier), Mr. A. G. L. Mackay, M.A., Capt. S. A. White, Mr. R. L. Butler, M.P., and the Revs. W. H. Irwin, M.A., A. De Pledge Sykes, W. B. Docker, M.A. and Mack Robinson, B.A.

REMINISCENCES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Interesting Facts and Personalities.

By Archdeacon Whittington.

It is one of the distinct disadvantages of having passed the heyday of youth that everybody expects you to be reminiscent on all sorts of subjects. I make that profound observation as explanatory of the prevailing tone of what follows about Adelaide University, in view of its coming jubilee. It would, of course, be quite simple for me, and very informative for the general public, to descant at length on the ideals of a university and how they may best be promoted, but my instructions are to give some reminiscences of my undergraduate experiences—so reminiscent I must be.

It really is rather a far cry from this year of grace 1926, to the year 1877 when a modest number of us gathered (one of them, at any rate, in fear and trembling) in the Grote Street Training School—for the 'Varsity of those days was entirely without a local habitation—to undergo the agonies of the matric. examination. For some considerable time previously I had been under the iron heel of one of my quite amiable friends of to-day, the Rev. F. Slaney Poole, M.A. (Cantab.), while he coached me in Greek, Latin, and maths, for the ordeal of the examination room.

of this laudable intent used to organize rather fatiguing field excursions, which he led with pipe in mouth and geological hammer in hand. But my most poignant recollections are of the Professor of Mathematics, then Mr. Horace Lamb, ex-fellow and tutor of Trinity College, Cambridge, and now on the top rung of the ladder of scholarship. Who can ever forget



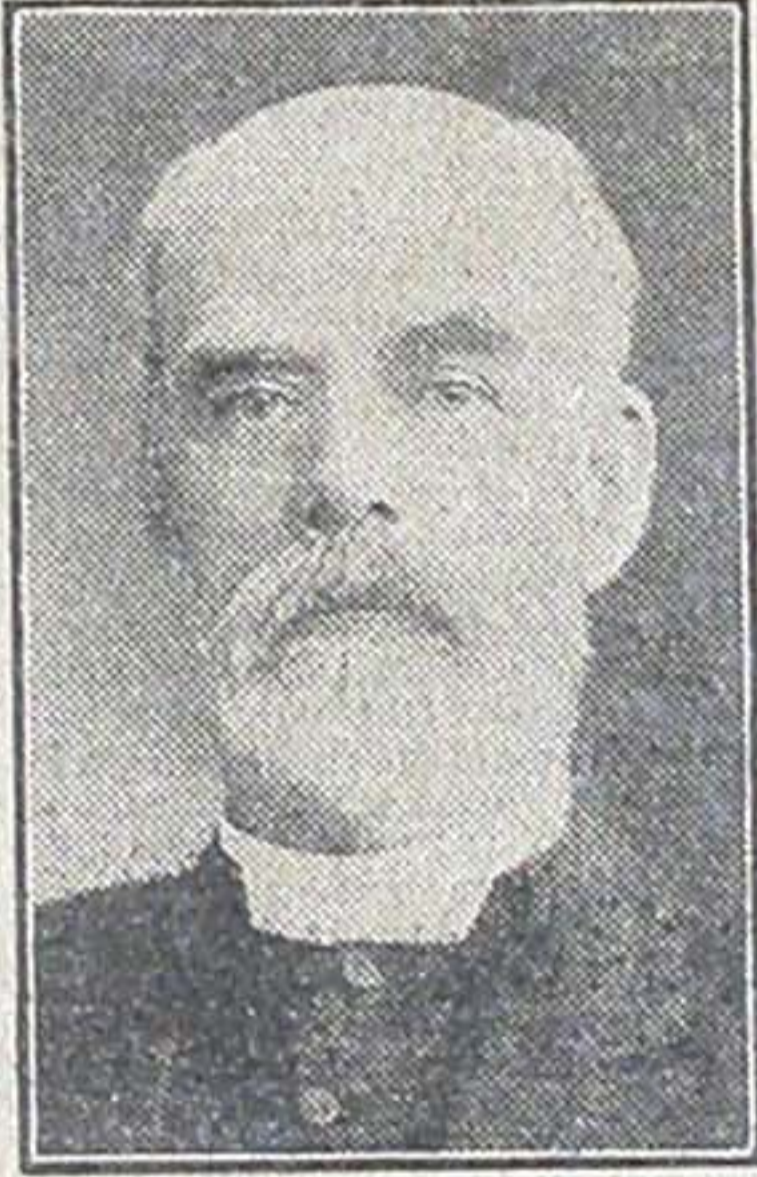
PROFESSOR HORACE LAMB.

that clear, rather strident, voice, and the monocle that flew up to his eye when he turned to litter the unoffending black-board with a map of formulae, unintelligible to a good many of us? Once I dared to accept his well-intentioned invitation to his class to go to him after the lecture if further elucidation was desired of the matter on which he had been instructing us. This interview remains as one of the most painful experiences of my long and chequered career. The professor looked up with a surprised expression and up went the inevitable monocle. He soon gently made me conscious that he could not understand why the question I submitted to him could possibly present any difficulty to any one in the full possession of the power of reasoning. Then seizing a bit of paper he proceeded, more suo, to cover it with algebraic symbols which he supplemented by rapid comments in a rather irritated voice. Finally he said, "See?" It was scarcely truthful of me to nod my head, but taking the professor's explanatory paper I withdrew, after feeble thanks, with what was meant to be an enlightened face. But never again did I seek for private instruction from the learned mathematician. Of the dominies of our law school the best remembered is the brilliant young Cambridge man Mr. Phillips, who poured out his stores of legal lore with the velocity and volume of a Niagara cataract. But we all recognized his enthusiasm for his subjects, and personally there remains with me to-day a real sense of gratitude for his having impressed us with the massive strength of the system of Roman law, and having tried to impart a deep respect for the principles of Constitutional government, but probably many recollect, even in mature age, our intellectual wrestlings in the endeavour to follow the professor through the marvellous intricacies of international jurisprudence. Yet, take it for all in all, the LL.B. course was a fine mental training which, together with more than two years' service under articles, was by no means useless to one who forsook all ideas of practising the law for the still more exacting task of trying to practise the Gospel, and to teach others so to do by example as well as by precept.

Of the undergraduates two who are still alive link themselves on to auld lang syne. Mr. ex-Deputy President Webb, of the Federal Arbitration Court, was in our law school. His recent office of dignity forbids more being said than that Noel Augustine Webb was a youth of robust health and irrepressible spirits. Given such endowments, it can easily be guessed what sort of fellow the future Arbitration Judge was, and of his popularity with the other barbarians with whom he worked and played at the 'Varsity. When duty took him to Tasmania a year or so ago he made time to come up for a pipe in my growlery, and a couple of hours seemed to fly by as we talked of the days of long ago, and congratulated ourselves upon the high standard of conduct we set to those with whom we studied Justinian, and Austin, and Holland.

Most Brilliant Adelaide Scholar.

The other undergraduate was a young gentleman of quite a different colour. Thomas Hudson Beare, the most brilliant man Adelaide University has produced, and recently honoured with a knighthood, was much my junior, and I knew him chiefly because our two families were on terms of friendship. A lanky youth, with pale face and big blue eyes full of intelligence. He scarcely ever joined in sport of any sort, but would often be found in



REV. F. SLANEY POOLE, M.A.

No one was more surprised than I (excepting probably my honoured tutor) when the results came out and I found myself the second of the only two candidates who got a first class, the premier place having been secured by the late Mr. James Henderson, whose promising after career as a legal practitioner was brought to such an untimely end by death. Let it be at once recorded that my examiners for the degrees examinations evidently fell far below, in the discernment of latent scholarship, those who judged me for matriculation, as even for the final adjudication for the LL.B. I was only put in the ruck of the poll. My personal consolation is that Bishop Short having ordered me off to Port Pirie soon after my ordination long deprived me of the advantage of studying the fads and foibles of the examiners, which—as every undergraduate knows—play such an important part in the setting of examination papers.

Some of the Professors.

After the expansion of St. Barnabas's College, Bishop Kennion kindly made me its first bursar, under the wardenship of dear old Dr. Dendy, and attendance at 'Varsity lectures became possible. Some memories remain of the professors. The Rev. John Davidson, Elder Professor of English Literature and Mental and Moral Philosophy, the most genial of men, who taught not only of the great personalities and classic productions of his subject, but tried to saturate us with the spirit of all about which he lectured. The Rev. Henry Read, Elder Professor of Classics and Comparative Philology—meticulously exact in all of which he treated, and most anxious to indoctrinate the temper of accuracy—and many of us would have been more trustworthy persons to-day, if we had permanently developed under his skilful guidance. Mr. Ralph Tate, Professor of Natural Science—largely on the recommendation of Thomas Huxley—who strove to interest us in the wonders of mother earth, and in pursuance