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EGGS OF SEA URCHINS,

STARTING VITAL PROCESSES. AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

NEW YORK, February 1. Dr. Guy Clark and Mr. Paul Sharp, of the Department of Bio-Chemistry at the University of California, have announced the result of their experiments with oocycin, which were begun by Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, formerly head of the department, but now of the University of Adelaide. Oocycin is a substance with which it is possible to start vital processes in the eggs of sea urchins. The announcement says the substance is found in the blood of all animals, but the highest



Professor T. Brailsford Robertson.

percentage is in fowls. It is a greyish-white powder when reduced to a relatively pure state. Eggs, to be fertilised, are removed from animals and placed in a bowl, and a small amount of oocycin, dissolved in seawater, is added. The formation of a membrana takes place in from twenty minutes to several hours. Scientists are still unable to analyse the substance.

Professor Brailsford Robertson stated last night that Dr. Clark was formerly an assistant of his. Oocycin was first isolated by Professor Robertson in an impure condition in 1908. Some years later Dr. Clark began working upon it. The professor was aware that he had been doing this for some years past. He was glad that he had obtained results which he had felt justified in publishing, but he did not know precisely what they were at present.

Asked to indicate what the importance of the discovery to medical science was likely to be, Professor Robertson said it was impossible at this stage to say. Only further investigations would determine that. At present they knew that it was possible to induce the beginnings of fertilisation in the eggs of lower forms of life. It was interesting to find that such a substance existed in the blood of animals, but what its functions were was not known. It might turn out to have some relationship to resistance to disease, but as yet they did not know.

MAIL 5.2.27

This month ushers in a resumption of musical activities, and, before it has run its course, teaching will again be in full swing. The Conservatorium will open early this year, and several new features of work are proposed, especially in the field of aural culture. Miss Ivy Ayers, who has charge of that branch of musical study, filled up the early part of her vacation with an operation for appendicitis, but has since recuperated at the seaside, and is feeling fit and ready for work.

Mr. Clive Carey will probably return from England in the second week of the term.

No. 5—MASSAGE Wide Scope in Adelaide

One of the problems which at times confront the parents of daughters concerns suitable careers on which the girls may embark when they leave school. One of a series of articles on such vocations will appear on the woman's page of "The News" each Monday. The facts given are obtained from an authority in the occupation dealt with.

Particulars in regard to hairdressing, pharmacy, dentistry, and law have been given, and today the profession of massage is described.

Hand-in-hand with the profession of medicine and surgery goes the increasingly important and beneficial practice of massage, and in South Australia at any rate more women than men have adopted it as a source of income.

A leading member of the South Australian branch of the Australasian Massage Association said that there was much scope in this State for competent qualified masseuses, but that certain qualifications were necessary to ensure success.

Golden Rule

"The secret of all professions," she said, "is to treat one's patient or client as one would treat oneself. Massage is exceedingly interesting work, but it is of no use to a young woman taking it up unless she thoroughly enjoys it.

"During the war masseuses shortened the convalescence of wounded men and alleviated the suffering caused by fractures and the like, and in private practice they are of great assistance to the medical profession.

"There are certain rules of the Australasian Massage Association to which rigid adherence must be given. Among these are:—No member shall act in a professional capacity except under the immediate direction or approval of a registered medical practitioner; no member shall advertise professionally in a manner disapproved by the committee; and no person shall be registered who is following the calling of spiritualistic or medical medium, clairvoyant, hypnotist, or fortune-teller, nor shall any member work for or be associated with any person practising under these or similar titles."

Course of Two Years

"The course comprises two years at Adelaide University, which includes practical work at Adelaide Hospital.

"A girl who decides to take up massage as a profession must devote herself exclusively to the two years of training and not engage in any other occupation during that time. She will find the course a period of great interest, and if she is a woman of ambition she should go far in the profession."

Candidates for the diploma of membership of the Australasian Massage Association, must, before entering upon the first year of their professional studies, satisfy the committee that they have passed the University leaving examination, and that they possess physical and general fitness, as certified by examiners appointed for this purpose by the committee.

During the first year candidates must attend courses of lectures and instruction on anatomy, physiology, theory of electricity, and bandaging and must perform a first course of dissections and attend demonstrations in massage. During the second year they must attend courses of lectures and instruction on anatomy, theory and practice of medical electricity, theory and practice of massage, and theory and practice of medical gymnastics.

They must also perform a second course of dissections and attend during 12 months the massage practice of a hospital approved by the committee. All examinations shall be partly written, partly oral, and partly practical. Candidates who have passed the foregoing examinations and have attained the age of 21 years shall be entitled to the diploma of membership of the association.

The cost of the two years' course is approximately £75.

Ranks Never Full

"If a woman is willing to give her best service, she will have ample opportunity to obtain further experience," said the masseuse. "The ranks are never full, and there is always a demand for competent qualified workers. There is one point which should be stressed. Sometimes very sick folk are ordered massage and she who ministers to their needs must combine sympathy and firmness in her nature, but on no account must she be maudlin."

"We members of the association are a happy band and our numbers are made

up of 28 women and 10 men. When a young woman has gained her diploma she may visit hospitals and private homes to treat patients under medical supervision, or she may set up for herself in professional rooms.

"In the latter case the cost of furnishing and equipment is not great, and £20 should secure all that is necessary for a beginning. She could add to her belongings as her practice grew.

"There is scope for practitioners in country districts. Broken Hill has one, but I do not think there is one at Port Pirie and many of the larger country towns."

ADV. 4.2.27

TOMATO WILT DISEASE.

Investigations are being conducted with a view to the eradication of the wilt disease in tomatoes. Messrs. Geoffrey Samuel, M.Sc., and H. A. Pittman, accompanied by Professor J. A. Prescott, of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, last week inspected the tomato plots of Messrs. Hollister and Donaldson, at Campbelltown. They were conducted over the area by Mr. W. J. Kimber, secretary of the Fruitgrowers' Association. On Tuesday evening Mr. Samuel, plant pathologist at the Waite Institute, will deliver an address on the causes of tomato wilt before members of the Campbelltown branch of the association.

REG. 8.2.27

Mr. Justice Angus Parsons is still in America. At Washington he was welcomed by Brig-Gen. Dawes, Vice-President of the United States, and by Chief Justice Taft, and his colleagues. At Boston he had luncheon with the Bar Association, and at Harvard with the Law Faculty.

REG. 8.2.27

At a meeting of the Council of the School of Mines on Monday, Mr. G. H. B. Haskard, B.Sc., was appointed to the position of Lecturer in Mathematics, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. J. W. Statton, B.Sc., who has accepted a similar appointment at the University. Mr. Haskard is a graduate of the University of Adelaide, and is at present on the staff of the Norwood District High School.

REG. 4.2.27



PROFESSOR T. HARVEY JOHNSTON, who has made extensive investigations into the prickly pear pest in Australia and America.

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had cabled for news of her. It was fifteen days before any answer was received, though it was prepaid, and enquiries from the Dutch officials failed to elicit anything but courtesy. When the belated message arrived they learned that the Javanese official who was responsible was ashamed to tell anyone of his lack of knowledge of English and over a fortnight had been consumed in translating it.

It is seven years since Mrs. Richardson last visited England, and her trip this time covered much more ground. "I have come home convinced of one thing," she said, "and that is the necessity of backing up the English-speaking Union. Its organisation in England is wonderful, and it is one of the main hopes of the world at present."

NEWS. 4.2.27

CURE FOR CANCER

Control of Normal Growth DISEASE IN OLD AGE

"I entirely agree with the opinion of Sir Berkeley Moynihan that cancer is curable if treated in the early stages," said Prof. T. Brailsford Robertson, of Adelaide University.

He was referring to statements made by Sir Berkeley Moynihan before the British Medical Association in London recently.

"Sir Berkeley pointed out," Prof. Robertson said, "that during the past 20 years the general death-rate has fallen 32 per cent.; infant mortality 45 per cent., and deaths from tuberculosis 85 per cent., but deaths from cancer have risen by 20 per cent."

The reason for the increase, Prof. Robertson explained, was the decrease in the other causes of death. "Cancer," he said, "is a disease of old age primarily, and the fact that we save so many people from death from other causes means that more people are left in the zone of danger of death from cancer.

"It cannot be too sufficiently emphasised that success in dealing with cancer depends, in the present state of knowledge, upon early diagnosis.

"The slightest suspicion of cancer should be immediately reported to the physician. On the other hand, it should also be known that only a small proportion of growths are actually cancer. There are many of an entirely harmless character which may be mistaken for cancer.

"As Sir Berkeley Moynihan explains," said Prof. Robertson, "cancer is not infectious. It is my conviction that we shall never understand how to control cancer, in any way except by removal until we thoroughly understand the process of normal growth, and the reasons why, when an animal has grown to normal adult size it ceases to grow.

"The same mechanism that checks the growth of the normal adult should, if we can control it and properly apply it, check the growth of cancer also. As we do not know what this mechanism is we cannot yet control it."

MAIL 5.2.27

Letters from Mr. Harold Wylde, late of the Conservatorium staff, bring good news of his renewed health. He writes from Kent, where, with friends he is rusticating in an old-world cottage attached to the Reedsbeds. The latter property has been so named by a South Australian—White of the Reedsbeds family, who bought a row of seven houses, with the conviction that they were once one, and pulling down divisions and plaster, proved his supposition to be correct. The beautiful old building has been restored nearly to its original. It is solid in its ancestral oak.

REG. 4.2.27

Professor F. Wood-Jones, of the Adelaide University, who recently received an appointment as anthropologist to the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, left Adelaide for Sydney by train on Sunday. He will embark for Honolulu on February 10 by the steamer Niagara.

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