

SOIL CHEMISTRY

WHAT THE WAITE INSTITUTE WILL DO.

Speaking at a meeting of the Central Agricultural Bureau on Wednesday, the Director of Agriculture (Professor J. A. Perkins) said that he had carefully considered the proposals for the work at the appointment of a chemist at the Berry Experimental Orchard. He recognized that much valuable work would be done by a chemist at Berry provided the latter was adequately supported and provided with the necessary scientific and administrative facilities. On the other hand, he was bound to point out the danger of duplication and the unnecessary expenditure of money. The Council of the Waite Institute had decided to station at Merbin which was carrying out similar work. Similarly the Waite Institute would be able to carry out work of this nature.

Professor Richardson said that in connection with the Research Council applications were being offered to an honour degree man in botany and in cultural chemistry to take up work at Merbin, and incidentally it was proposed to station a chemist at Merbin in that place, and it would always be available in New South Wales and South Australia. He suggested that the Research Institute was to examine systematically all the soils under irrigation in South Australia and to correlate this with work carried out in the same work in New South Wales; to first classify and then suggest methods of solution of the scientific problems facing the settlers and the Irrigation Commission. The work which this work could be done was governed by the number of men available in the State. It was suggested that a man engaged in whole time work on the Murray River. If the State desired this work to be carried out it would be necessary to make provision for additional investigations. Recommendations had been made to the State Government to develop this type of work as well as the investigation of fungous and bacterial diseases of crops, and other problems.

REG. 12-8-27

BOTANICAL RESEARCH.

Information has been received that Dr. A. W. Hill, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and one of the world's leading botanists, will arrive in Australia early in November. He is coming at the invitation of the Federal Government, supplemented by request from the University authorities, at the instance of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. The letters received in Adelaide from the Federal authorities, consideration has been given in England lately to the desirability of placing the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens on a wider basis. For that purpose, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has made funds available to enable the director of the gardens to visit the gardens to visit the dominions and colonies, and to consult with botanists and others overseas. The visit of Dr. Hill will be of great importance to the State, in that the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has under consideration proposals for creating a section of economic botany.

REG 12-8-27

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.

To the Editor. Sir-The Australian National Research Council consists of about 100 members elected from those interested in all branches of science, agriculture, geology, astronomy, botany, chemistry, economics and statistics, engineering, geology, geology, mathematics, metallurgy, physics, physiology, pathology, physics, physiology, veterinary science and zoology, together with associate members in each branch of science. The Council has members almost all of whom are continuously engaged in original scientific research. Soon after its formation the generous aid of the Rockefeller Foundation organized the second Pan-Pacific Science Congress, which was held at Melbourne and Sydney in 1923. At this congress the Waite Research Institute will be proposed to Melbourne on important business to-day, and will leave for London next Thursday to attend the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference. The professor will return to Adelaide towards the end of the year.

The purpose of the movement is to secure the erection on a magnificent site fronting the Victoria Drive, of a plan of Students' Union Buildings, the plans of which have been long in contemplation. The desire for a Students' Union Building found expression so far back as 1896-97, and led to the raising of £750 with which the present small Union room for men was built. Subsequently the women students formed a union and were granted the use of a room in the University and afterwards of a little cottage in the old Police Barracks. This accommodation, both for men and women, has long been utterly inadequate. At the close of the Great War, when the provision of a War Memorial for the University was mooted, it was decided that the Memorial should be incorporated in the project for the Students' Union Building. Unavoidable delay in launching the present ambitious undertaking has thus stood in the way of the appeal for a War Memorial, but the scheme now advocated is the more compelling and admirable because it ensures the raising of a suitable monument to the 470 members of the University who served overseas in the Great War, and of whom 63 made the supreme sacrifice. The structures will comprise a Women Students' Building, which will be known as the Lady Symon Building-Sir Joseph Symon (who will take a prominent part in the proceedings to-morrow) having generously presented 21,000 to cover its cost-and the Men's Union Building; a common dining hall; and Memorial Cloisters.

The first two buildings are to front the Victoria Drive; the dining hall will lie behind, immediately north of the Darling Building; and the three will partially enclose a sunken lawn of about 100 ft. by 50 ft., round which will run the Memorial Cloisters containing on their western side a Memorial bronze. The whole design will be in red brick, and the style Georgian, in keeping with the later buildings of the University. Soon after the Armistice Professor Henderson collected for the scheme a handsome sum which has since increased with interest to £7,322. Eloquently significant is the fact that all the members of the Council and the professors of the University have contributed largely out of their private resources to the fund. What is now wanted is a sum of £20,000 to cover the cost of the Memorial Cloisters and the balance required for the Men's Building and the common dining hall. A good augury of the success of the appeal is the enthusiasm with which the students are voluntarily subscribing of their slender means to the fund, and their pledge to do everything in their power to expedite the accomplishment of the scheme. As private wealth could hardly be more worthily employed than in aiding the establishment of an institution which will add materially to the powerful and gracious influences perpetually exerted by the State's seat of higher learning, the project appears destined to early and happy fulfilment.

REG. 11-8-27

Professor A. E. V. Richardson (director of the Waite Research Institute) will proceed to Melbourne on important business to-day, and will leave for London next Thursday to attend the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference. The professor will return to Adelaide towards the end of the year.

who would, of course, be expected to have attained academic and practical qualifications appropriate to their profession. The syllabus proposed would cover the following subjects:—Elemental physics, the use of the spectrometer in which the office is employed, pencil writing, correspondence, bookkeeping, shorthand, typing, economic, general office methods, and the following subjects would be added:—mathematics and public administration. An officer's progress in the service in future would depend upon his passing the examinations laid down. Certain officers would be selected over 23 years of age would be exempt from the examinations, and in order to give them an opportunity to study certain subjects. It was expected that the examinations would be held fully effective until the expiration of one year. The system of examinations proposed was intended to promote the general efficiency of the whole service. Mr. Hunkin added that many officers in the service were at present attending courses at the University of the Adelaide University, and others the accountancy course conducted by the Commonwealth and Federal Institutes. Those courses would be accepted in lieu of the standard examinations proposed.

NEWS 10-8-27

Mr. Marcus L. E. Oliphant, B.Sc., the winner of the 1931 Research Scholarship, will leave today by the Ascania for Britain. He will proceed to Cambridge University to study for the October term. For the next two or three years he will have the privilege of working in the laboratory under the eminent scientist Sir Ernest Rutherford. On Monday evening Mr. Oliphant was tendered a farewell party at his residence at 10, St. George's Guild, Rev. Canon Wise, M.A., himself an old Cantab, on behalf of the company present, and he was given well in his future career.

REG. 11-8-27 THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

A notable gathering will take place in the Adelaide Town Hall to-morrow night, under the chairmanship of the Chancellor (Sir George Murray, K.C.M.G.), to advance a scheme for an important forward movement in the organized activities of the University. The meeting will be historic, inasmuch as it is the first occasion on which the whole University Council, professors, lecturers, graduates, and undergraduates, have been asked to assemble for the achievement of a great object. At the same time, it is earnestly hoped that all sections of the public will exhibit a lively interest in the new undertakings to which the University is committed. The mediæval Latin term from which the English word "university" is derived was originally employed to denote any community or corporation regarded in its collective aspect; and in all the leading universities—especially those in English-speaking countries—the instruction imparted is associated with a social "atmosphere" and a corporate spirit which, though not easily defamable, are indispensable to the creation and perpetuation of traditions and influences which conduce to enduring and noble nationhood. Oxford and Cambridge, Yale and Harvard, the most famous of the higher seats of learning in Great Britain and the United States, are renowned more for the distinctive qualities of the fellowships in intellectual labour which they foster among their students, than for their curricula of lectures. The comparative lack of means hitherto for properly cultivating the community spirit which is essential to the utilization of knowledge in the best advantage of humanity, has often been keenly felt by the authorities of the Adelaide University, and of Mr. C. T. Madigan (organizing secretary of the Students' Union) remarking:— "A central union building is essential as unifying force. Every extension of the University makes this need greater. With the erection of each new teaching building the Faculties grow more scattered, and it becomes increasingly difficult for the students, graduates, and staff, to meet one another regularly and obtain the great benefits which should be reaped from the social side

tralia and every other country. In the world today, is concerned about her security. The French look to their possessions in North Africa. The Turks, who enjoy what is the most fertile soil in a half a dozen countries, are afraid that Italy is threatening them.

Quality Before Quantity. Perhaps the intentions of Mussolini are amiable. But his preoccupation with counting heads is not healthy. The ultimate of high cost and low profit. There are other things of higher importance. Quality should come before quantity, and duty (as Masani, an Italian orator even than Mussolini, never wearied of teaching) should come before rights.

Each nation of the world, including Italy and Australia, has at present an obvious, commonsense duty—the duty of doing what it can to help Europe escape from that old, curable but not profitable, disease of our common civilisation. It is natural that the eyes of the world should be fixed upon Mussolini's Italy. But the fascination which holds them is not wholesome. The life of the States of Northern Europe—at Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

REG 10-8-27 UNIVERSITY UNION.

Students' Voluntary Levy.

That the students associated with the University are keenly interested in the welfare of the Students' Union Building, was indicated on Tuesday afternoon, when more than 250 assembled in the Prince of Wales Lecture Hall to hear particulars. A week ago the initial meeting was held, and proved to be wholly in line with the support of the much needed building. Mr. H. Boyzett presided. Mr. A. G. Price spoke of the great need for such a union, for there was, he said, a serious lack of accommodation in the University. A certain Melbourne publisher had asked for particulars concerning the scheme of Adelaide. Evidently the information given had been disappointing, for the headline appeared, "There is no Night Life in Adelaide!" (Laughter.) Mr. H. Boyzett stated that there was no corporate life in the University.

Mr. Boyzett, a Mr. McKellar Stewart, one of the founders, and a Past-President of the Melbourne Union, said that it had been the custom of Melbourne University fellows to refer to their house of learning as "The shop"—because they bought a certain amount of stuff there. But, he said, a different spirit began to spread through the whole of the university—a spirit in keeping with its work. (Applause.) Mr. Stewart, who is now very busy upon the binding force of such an organization of fellowship. Speaking as one long and familiarly associated with the University, the professor remarked that the students had not realized how much they had gained from their union building until it had been attacked. It is meant very great influence for good in every way. (Applause.)

Dr. F. S. Hone dwelt upon the obligation of the students to make the Adelaide movement a forward one. He urged the students to support it with all their might. Mr. C. T. Madigan, hon. secretary, added his words of commendation. The movement must come from the students, as part of the University of the day. (Applause.)

Mr. Boyzett pointed out that enthusiasm, rightly controlled, was a main factor in launching the project successfully. It was his hope that the meeting would be held on Friday evening, through the main streets, prior to the meeting. Those members who had not previously agreed with the scheme, were invited to do so.

The following motion was carried unanimously:—That the students at this meeting of the University of Adelaide submit themselves to a voluntary levy of not less than £1 annually for the next three years, and that they pledge themselves to do everything in their power to raise funds and to establish a union.

REG 10-8-27

PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

The secretary of the Public Service Association (Mr. L. C. H. Hain) stated on Tuesday that the Classification and Examinations Board had practically finalized the syllabus for the public service examinations. The appointments and promotion of officers in the public service, and promotion of officers (Mr. A. N. Russell) had prepared a syllabus for the examination. The syllabus applied to all junior officers and would be held in 1928, and to officers of 20 years before being promoted. It would be held in 1928, and to officers of 20 years before being promoted. It would be held in 1928, and to officers of 20 years before being promoted.