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Sir James Barrett discussed several related problems, namely, the Victorian Bush Nursing Association, the hospital system of Victoria, the hospital system of Great Britain, and the hospital system of New Zealand.

**Bush Nursing Plan**

Dealing with the Bush Nursing Association, he said that hospitals under its control received and accepted patients from the Government for construction, and, except in six instances, nothing for maintenance. They must maintain themselves or close. He said, "So far none have closed. These hospitals are staffed by doubly and trebly certificated nurses, and not by trainees. The nurses, who are the best paid in the State, provide the cheapest hospital accommodation in the State. The cost of construction has been borne by the Edward Wilson Trust and the Sir A. V. McKay Trust to the extent of one-sixth to one-third of the cost. The balance has been provided by the districts which own them. The bush nursing principle consists in the clear recognition of the fact that, in private and intermediate hospitals, and to some extent in public hospitals, the sick and their friends must defray the cost of their treatment."

The President explained that the public hospitals in Victoria were maintained by voluntary contributions, by Government subsidy, and by patients' contributions. There were also a number of intermediate hospitals, mostly organised by religious bodies, at which the charges, although in his opinion too high, were less than those of the private hospitals. The sole cause of the hospital problem was not want of money but simply that the lists of thousands of people resorted to public hospitals who did not do so formerly.

In a letter received from the English system, Sir James Barrett said that the steady rise in the numbers of inpatients and outpatients at the voluntary hospitals and the habit of sending panel patients to the out-patient departments had become a serious problem. It would almost seem that an expenditure of £39,000,000 a year on health insurance, improved wages, and means by which both sickness and payment for it had increased in volume.

**Nationalised System In New Zealand**

In New Zealand, the hospital system, he added, had been nationalised in 1909. The financial responsibility was thrown on to the ratepayer and the taxpayer in definite ratios. Anybody could obtain admission to a public hospital, but could not be charged more than £3 per day. He deduced from the results of the New Zealand system that nationalisation inevitably put an end partially to charitable contributions, that the collection of fees payable by those who used the hospitals was arduous and difficult, and that, consequently, a nationalised system must be expensive.

"Are we to abandon our voluntary charitable system and nationalise our hospital service?" Sir James Barrett asked. He said, "We shall lose the hearty feelings of the public and of the profession which brought the hospitals into existence and which have ensured their continuance. The medical staff must then cease to be honorary. It is likely to happen that the medical profession will continue to act as if the system were a charitable one so far as he is concerned, but, as nationalised, as soon as it makes their appearance, the medical officers must be adequately paid to ensure efficiency."

**Infections Of Teeth**

Diseases of the tissues surrounding the teeth by reason of the infections arising therefrom, form one of the greatest sources of disease in mankind, and are also of great importance in the pre-adolescent period. This statement was the burden of the first clinical address of the meeting, which was delivered at the University this morning by Sir William Willcox, of St. Mary's Hospital, London, and president of the section of pharmacology, therapeutics, and anaesthesia.

"The wholesale extraction of teeth without adequate supporting evidence," Sir William Willcox said, "is to be strongly condemned, as it is generally injurious to the patient and does harm by bringing into disrepute, not only in the medical and dental professions, but also with the public, an important factor in the causation of disease. On the other hand, the retention of harmful foci of sepsis in the mouth in order to preserve teeth which are a source of infection is certain to lead to impaired health and disease of other organs."

Sir William Willcox told the large Rev. W. Grove, who represented the Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. J. E Warren attended as the representative of the Methodist Church (Rev. J. W. Grove).

The service was conducted by the Precentor of the Cathedral (Rev. R. Sherwood), and special prayers were offered for the medical profession, for nurses, for medical students and for the sick and suffering. A prayer for a peaceable settlement of the dispute in Europe was also offered. The Bishop of Wangaratta (Dr. Harvi, presided

audience, which included many medical men interested in public health, and leading dentists, that he had been severely criticised 15 years ago when, in a series of addresses at London, Manchester, and Edinburgh, he had claimed that a very large number of diseases could be traced to infections of the teeth. His researches and clinical experience since the delivery of those addresses had convinced him that he could not only substantiate his original claims, but could extend the list of diseases the origin of which lay in dental sepsis.

The necessity for an X-ray examination of the teeth and gums in all cases where infection was suspected was insisted upon by Sir William Willcox. He said that, even where the teeth and gums appeared perfectly normal and healthy, an X-ray examination often disclosed chronic sepsis. Treatment could then be begun and sure instead of empirical. There was always danger when dental sepsis was present. Although no ill effects might be felt while the body was capable of dealing with the infection, a chill or an injury might upset the balance and the dental sepsis would assert itself and cause disease.

He proceeded to detail the diseases which could often be traced as having their origin in focal infections. Among these, he said, were toxaemia, anaemia, heart and lung diseases, abdominal complaints, skin and nervous complications, rheumatism and arthritis.

Dr. Wilfred Fish, who has been associated with Sir William Willcox in his investigations, showed a number of lantern slides illustrating the spread of infection from diseased teeth.

**Services At Cathedrals**

The brilliantly colored academic robes which were seen at the Town Hall provided a vivid splash of color in St. Paul's Cathedral when memorial services were held in the morning. The Governor-General (Sir Isaac Isaacs) and Lady Isaacs, the Governor of Victoria (Lord Huntingfield) and Lady Huntingfield, and Colonel and Mrs. Helme Pott, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne (Councillor A. G. Wales) and the Town Clerk (Mr. H. S. Wootton) were present at the service. The Moderator (Right

A service was also held at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where Father Hackett of Xavier College, preached the sermon.

**Many Social Functions**

Other functions today included a luncheon given to the officers of the various scientific sections, a Masonic luncheon, and an official ladies' dinner. The President (Sir James Barrett) and Lady Barrett held a reception at the Town Hall tonight, where they greeted more than 3,000 guests.

During the day members were entertained in numerous parties, luncheons and dinners, given by Melbourne businesses. A tennis tournament was also held.

The scientific work of the meeting will begin tomorrow, when fourteen sections will meet at the University for the group discussion of papers which will be read by leading practitioners. In the afternoon honorary degrees will be conferred on visiting members by the University of Melbourne. The day's programme also includes several clinical addresses and the delivery by Dr. J. Mennell, of the Embley Memorial lecture.

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# SOCIAL STUDIES BOARD MOOTED

## Suggested Course At University

## QUESTION OF CAREER

LEADING social welfare and church workers in Adelaide are interested in a proposal to establish a board of social studies at the Adelaide University similar to the boards in the Melbourne and Sydney Universities.

In addition to giving attention to the possibility of introducing a course of study in social sciences, those concerned in the move see a greater measure of co-ordination in social welfare activities in Adelaide. These would include ministries, charitable societies, women police, and young people's welfare movements.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell), who attended a meeting of representatives of welfare organisations, advised that concrete proposals should be formulated for submission to the University about the plans for a social studies board.

Sir William said that an important point was whether there would be any remunerative positions open to students who took the course. Students could not be expected to do a course of study merely for its academic interest and without some prospect of its leading to a career.

A committee has been formed with Dr. Duguid, moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly, as chairman, and Miss Stella Pines as secretary. Others interested include the president of the Y.W.C.A. (Mrs. P. S. Morsent) and the secretary (Miss Rose Winter) and the secretary of the Y.M.C.A. (Mr. J. T. Massey).

The principal of the women police (Mrs. M. M. Wilcher) and the former principal (Miss M. Cocks) have taken part in the discussions. Miss Cocks has had an additional interest in the scheme because of her appointment as superintendent of the women's social service department of the Methodist Church.

Miss Cocks will not take up that position until her return from a three months' holiday trip to New Zealand, on which she will leave on September 18.

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### Suggested Board Of Social Studies

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Referring to the proposal by leading social welfare and church workers to establish a board of social studies at the University of Adelaide, the Registrar of the University (Mr. F. W. Eardley) said yesterday that, when official information had been received from those interested in the proposal, it would be considered by the Council.

At a meeting of representatives of welfare organisations interested in the suggested board, a committee was formed with the Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly (Dr. C. Duguid) as chairman.

### Future Of University Colleges Discussed

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The first special supplement of the history and records of St. Mark's College, the first residential college of the University of Adelaide, was issued yesterday.

The supplement states that the future of the collegiate movement in Adelaide depends upon three factors—the possibility of obtaining Government assistance; the hope of endowments and legacies for buildings, tuition, and scholarships; and the strengthening of the warm feelings and co-operation which exist between the colleges and the University.

"Improvement under all three headings seems likely," adds the supplement. "Although the country interests are so important in South Australia and the founders of the University and the Government of the day clearly anticipated that a residential college system was necessary, South Australia remains the only State in which the Government has done nothing whatever for the colleges. In New South Wales the Government subsidises poorer students up to £20,000 the buildings of the five university colleges, and contributes £500 a year towards the revenue of each college. In all the other States except Tasmania the Governments have endowed the colleges with gifts of land."

The supplement mentions that, in regard to legacies and endowments, South Australians are now recognising the good work of the system, and the importance of its contribution to University and public life.

# MR. C. J. COVENTRY MAY BE NEW S.M.

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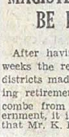
## Early Announcement Expected

## MAGISTERIAL DUTIES TO BE RE-ARRANGED

After having considered for several weeks the re-allotment of magisterial districts made necessary by the pending retirement of Mr. G. W. Halcombe from Port Adelaide, the Government, it is understood, has decided that Mr. K. F. V. Sanderson shall succeed to the Port Adelaide post; that Mr. H. G. Nesbit shall take over Mr. Sanderson's duties on the South-Eastern and River Murray circuits; and that a new appointment shall be made to succeed Mr. Nesbit on the Northern circuit.



Mr. C. J. Coventry

It was authoritatively stated yesterday that the new magistrate would be Mr. C. J. Coventry, an Adelaide lawyer, and for the past three and a half years mayor of Brighton. As a magistrate, it would be necessary for Mr. Coventry to relinquish municipal work, and, in this connection, it is significant that Mr. Coventry yesterday informed the town clerk of Brighton that he would tender his resignation as mayor at the next meeting of the council on Monday week.

Mr. Coventry's appointment as magistrate, it is expected, will be made soon by Executive Council on the recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner (Mr. Hunter), with the approval of the Acting Chief Justice (Mr. Justice Angas Parsons), which is necessary in accordance with the provisions of the Justices Act.

**Valued Public Service**

Mr. Coventry, who is 57, has given much valuable public service, particularly in municipal work, and in connection with youth employment movements. For two years he was president of the Young People's Employment Council, and is still a member of the executive committee of that body. He is also a member of the Youth Occupations Council.

Mr. Coventry's civic interests began in 1928, when he was elected to Brighton Council. He served for five years as councillor, one year as alderman, and was then appointed mayor.

Mr. Coventry was born in May, 1878, at Port Augusta, where he received his primary education. He was articled in 1905 to Mr. Noel Webb, of the firm of Nesbitt, Webb & Nesbit. He finished his articles in 1911, but obtained his final certificate in law at the Adelaide University in 1911, and was admitted to the bar the same year. He practised first on his own, subsequently in partnership with Mr. D. Campbell, and later with Mr. R. Roberts. He resumed practice on his own account in 1927.

Mr. Coventry is interested in pictorial art. For several years he was president of the United Arts Club, and has been a regular exhibitor of oils, water colors, and pen drawings at the club's exhibitions.