

Register
22nd Aug 1898.

The Advertiser
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THE HOSPITAL TROUBLE.

To the Editor.
Sir—I understand that Mr. Tucker's remarks at the last meeting of the Board of Management of the Adelaide Hospital on Friday last have conveyed the impression to some people that Drs. Giles, Poulton, Verco, and I have been anxious to resume the positions we occupied at the Hospital prior to the disruption, and to work there in conjunction with Drs. Napier, Smith, and the other members of the present staff. I have been informed to-day that a Mr. Mackie, a recent addition to the Board, has openly made this statement. There may be some excuse for this gentleman making a statement so utterly devoid of truth, for he probably accepted as true what he was told by Mr. Tucker; but there can be no excuse for the latter gentleman, inasmuch as he must have known how false it was. With your permission I will explain how our names have become mixed up with anything in connection with the Hospital. It must be nearly a year ago since the Vice-Chancellor of the University invited our assistance in the formulation of a scheme by which he hoped to resuscitate the Medical School. He said that for its success it was essential that the former lecturers should resume their duties at the Hospital, and asked us to allow him to say that we would be willing to accept the positions if elected. This proposition met with an emphatic refusal from us. We said that we had no intention of entering the Hospital again. By dint of appealing to our loyalty to the University, and to the right that he considered that the University had to call upon us to sacrifice our private feelings for the general good, the Vice-Chancellor succeeded in persuading us to meet the Medical Faculty for the purpose of establishing, if possible, a modus vivendi. The result of this meeting was the decision that the medical members promised to consider the question of returning to the Hospital, on certain conditions only. I invite Mr. Tucker to publish those conditions, so that the public may see whether any anxiety was displayed. Moreover, it was stipulated that should the conditions be accepted we would not give our consent unless our action met with the approval of the medical profession of the colony, as expressed at a meeting called for the purpose. These events happened so long ago that I, for one, was under the impression that the scheme was dead and buried. Since then, on the occurrence of certain events at the Hospital, which there is no necessity to particularize, I informed a member of the University sub-committee that I saw no use in continuing negotiations, as I was sure that not one of us would now return on any consideration. It would take too long to point out the various inaccuracies in Mr. Tucker's remarks. Suffice it to say that his innuendo that Drs. Napier and Smith were expelled from the British Medical Association at the request of the South Australian Branch is as false as his list of members of that branch is inaccurate. I apologize for troubling you with so lengthy a letter, but, though I have no objection to being considered an open and avowed enemy of the Adelaide Hospital as at present governed, I cannot keep silence under the imputation of hypocrisy and double-dealing.
I am, Sir, &c.,
W. T. HAYWARD.

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.
A "Wagner night" has been arranged by the Conservatorium Orchestra to take place at the Town Hall next Saturday night. The orchestra has been augmented for the occasion, and extra rehearsals are being held so as to make the performance as complete as possible. Two compositions will be played for the first time, viz.:—The "Introduction and bride's chorus," from "Lohengrin," and "Der ritt der Walkuren" (Die Walkure), the other numbers being the bright and sparkling "Ballet music" from "Rienzi," grand march, "Tannhauser," "Albumblatt No. 1," "Pilgrim's chorus" (Tannhauser), "Norwegian matrosen chorus" (Fliegende Hollander), and a paraphrase of "Walther's Prelied" (Meistersinger von Nurnberg). Mr. Richard Nitschke will contribute the vocal numbers accompanied by the orchestra.

THE HOSPITAL TROUBLE.
To the Editor.
Sir—Permit me to say a few words in reply to Mr. Tucker's letter. The letters of Drs. Poulton and Giles obviate the necessity of replying to the only portion of Mr. Mackie's letter that concerns me. Mr. Tucker says that he can positively state that the names of Drs. Giles, Poulton, Verco, and myself were submitted by the sub-committee of the University Council as willing to return to the Hospital and work with the present staff under certain conditions. I have asked him to state these conditions, for by so doing he would show the incorrectness of his statement; but he has not acceded to my request. Mr. Lyons, I notice, affirmed at the Board meeting that nothing occurred at the meetings of the sub-committee that would enable the Chairman or any one else to make such a statement. Mr. Tucker adds that two of the above-mentioned gentlemen attended meetings of the joint committee. Mr. Tucker is again lamentably inaccurate. I acquit him of wilful misrepresentation in this case, but it is a stupid mistake, as he can easily discover if he will peruse the list of members forming the University Sub-committee. Only one of the gentlemen mentioned is a member of the Council. Mr. Tucker practically disputes the accuracy of my statement that Drs. Napier and Smith were not expelled from the British Medical Association at the request of the South Australian Branch, and in support of his contention quotes a paragraph from Dr. Giles's valedictory address, omitting a suggestive sentence. In support of the correctness of my statement I will mention a few facts which, I venture to say, are all well known to Mr. Tucker. Accounts of the state of affairs at the Adelaide Hospital appeared in the "British Medical Journal" during April and May, 1895, and sympathy was expressed with the late honorary staff. An article was published on the subject in the issue of May 23, in which the hope was expressed that no English surgeon would apply for the vacant position, to which a footnote was appended that Dr. Napier had been appointed. In the next issue a letter appeared, written by Dr. A. H. Carter, the President of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch, in which he said that if on investigation the facts were found to be as stated it would be the duty of the Association to expel Dr. Napier. Dr. Napier replied the following week, expressing regret that "his old friend and colleague" should write as he had done. No request was ever sent by the South Australian Branch that Dr. Carter's suggestion should be acted upon, and it was not till some months later that any steps were taken other than sending to medical men in England copies of the pamphlet which was published on the subject. Subsequently we received information that copies of Mr. Holder's article in the "Review of Reviews" were being distributed from the Agent-General's Department, and that a legal firm had been instructed to take steps to prevent the expulsion of Drs. Napier and Smith. Not having the confidence one would like to have had that the Government would present an accurate account—to put it mildly—before the Council the South Australian Branch deputed Dr. Perks, who was visiting England, to represent it so that misstatements should be corrected. Unfortunately, as we then thought—though fortunately, as I think now—Dr. Perks made a mistake as to the date of the Council meeting, and on presenting himself at the offices of the Association he was informed that Drs. Napier and Smith had a week previously been expelled from the Association. From a gentleman of a neighbouring colony who was present at the meeting we learn that Drs. Napier and Smith were represented by Mr. Bucknill, an eminent Q.C., a junior counsel, Mr. Attenborough, and a shorthand writer. Despite the eloquence of this galaxy of talent and the absence of Dr. Perks, Drs. Napier and Smith were expelled by 42 votes to 1. Perhaps some member of Parliament will enquire how much this futile exhibition of partisanship, including the printing and distribution here and in England of Mr. Holder's pamphlet, has cost the long-suffering taxpayers of South Australia. Further comment or correspondence on my part is needless.
I am, Sir, &c.,
W. T. HAYWARD.

The Advertiser
23rd Aug. 1898.

DR. LENDON'S SPEECH AT THE UNIVERSITY DINNER.
To the Editor.
Sir—The following rough translation of the solemn engagement subscribed by medical graduates in Edinburgh may be of some interest in present circumstances:—
"I, who am now to receive the degree of doctor in medicine, do solemnly promise before God, who is the searcher of hearts, that I will to the last breath of my life continue steadfastly to do everything which gratitude ought to do for the University of Edinburgh. Furthermore I promise that I will practise the art of medicine with care, purity, and a good conscience, and as far as in me lies that I will give due attention to everything which is fitted to heal the sick. Lastly, that I will not make known, save for grave reasons secrets which may become known to me professionally. May the Almighty be my witness as I make this promise."
According to this statement the supreme law of the medical republic is not the dignity of the Medical Association, far less its punctilious insistence on conformity under threat of excommunication, but the welfare of the University and the expulsion of disease. Many who are not partisans are vexed that a noble profession should have sacrificed our medical school for what looks like personal reasons, and are now setting their faces to punish members who think the claims of University and hospital higher than the victory of individual men over their opponents, or even than the claims of a useful and distinguished association.—I am, &c.,
LAICUS.

The Advertiser
25th Aug. 1898.

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.
Next Saturday night the Conservatorium Grand Orchestra will give a "Wagner night" in the Town Hall. The programme includes two numbers that will be played by the orchestra for the first time, viz.: The introduction and "Bride's chorus," from "Lohengrin," and "Der Ritt der Walkuren" (Die Walkure). The bright "Ballet music" from "Rienzi," "Norwegian Matrosen chorus" ("Fliegende Hollander"), a paraphrase on Walther's "Prelied" ("Meistersinger"), "Album leaf No. 1," the "Pilgrim's chorus" (Tannhauser), including the solo for three slide trombones, and the grand march from "Tannhauser" complete the orchestral numbers. Mr. Richard Nitschke will sing "Der Abendstern" (Wagner) and "There is a green hill far away" (Gounod), accompanied by the orchestra. With so excellent a programme a crowded house is anticipated.

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25th Aug. 1898.

To the Editor.
Sir—Most people who read "The Register" on Tuesday would be glad to see Dr. Hayward's letter in which he gives our Chief Magistrate some awkward nuts to crack. Then there is that great and extensive mercantile man, Mr. Mackie, who, one might have reasonably thought, would have studied the interests of us who have to find the money to support the Hospital, and looked well into matters to see whether all who are kept there as patients ought to be there. But, no; Mr. Mackie appears to have become fascinated, like the ladies and some of the gentlemen on the Board, and they bow down before the powers that be, including the Government, which by its overbearing conduct disbanded one of the most efficient Hospital Boards we ever had, deprived our suffering poor of some of the most eminent medical skill the world possesses, and also destroyed the Medical School, thereby causing large expenditure to students or their friends elsewhere, instead of in the colony. To some of us taxpayers it is somewhat remarkable that Mr. Mackie, the last-appointed member of the Board, should have taken it upon himself to cross-question the Chairman and so lead him into the misstatement he made, as shown by Dr. Hayward. Of course, Mr. Mackie could not possibly have acted as a cat's paw in putting those questions. Let him push on, and he may unintentionally do some good ultimately by leading to an enquiry concerning the management of our Hospital, which our Government refused to allow His Excellency to appoint a Commission to investigate.
I am, Sir, &c.,
G. M.

The Advertiser
27th Aug. 1898.

THE NORMANS IN EUROPE.
The reign and character of Henry I. formed the subject of the fourth lecture of the history series given at the University by Mr. E. G. Blackmore on Friday evening before a full audience. The lecturer did not give a mere abstract or analysis of the history of the reign, but selected the leading features so as to illustrate the character and policy of the king, the difficulties he had to encounter with the great feudatories in England and Normandy, and how by his wise administration he ruled as an English king, supported by the nation, and thus aided in that fusion of Normans and English in England, which before many years was completed. Some extracts from the old chronicles did not a little to give life to the sketch. A curious parallelism between the earlier years of the reigns of William, Rufus, and Henry was worked out, showing how each by the aid of their English subjects were able to cope with Norman rebellion in the kingdom and Norman invasion from over the sea. The settlement of the investiture question and the dispute between Anselm and the king were told, and justice was done to that great prelate and the foresight and wisdom of the king in maintaining what he could maintain and resigning what he could resign without loss of kingly power. The last lecture of the series will be given next Friday evening when the whole epoch will pass under review.

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23rd Aug 1898.

THE HOSPITAL TROUBLE.
To the Editor.
Sir—I have neither the time nor the inclination to indulge in a newspaper controversy about the ex-doctors of the Adelaide Hospital. I must, however, write a few words in reply to the letter in your issue of to-day over the signature of Dr. W. T. Hayward. This gentleman says that "a Mr. Mackie, a recent addition to the board, has openly made this statement, i.e., that Drs. Giles, Poulton, Verco, and Hayward have been anxious to resume the positions they occupied at the hospital prior to the disruption, and to work there in conjunction with Drs. Napier and Smith." Substantially that is true, and I now reaffirm the statement on other authority than that of the chairman of the Hospital Board, but for obvious reasons I cannot give names. If the doctor denied that he was anxious to resume his connection with the hospital I might be disposed to think that a mistake had been made in mentioning his name, but when he makes the denial on behalf of all the gentlemen named I think he makes a serious mistake. His explanation as to how his name and those of the other doctors mentioned have got mixed up may be interesting to those fond of ancient history, but it is not to a conference of "nearly a year ago" that reference was made by me at the last meeting of the Hospital Board, but to a meeting of only a few weeks since. And my reason for drawing attention to the matter was the circular that I had seen signed by a person known as "W. T. Hayward," convening a meeting of the S.A. Branch of the British Medical Association for the purpose of moving the council of that august body, "to take steps to expel all members of the association who continue to work in association" with two men who have been expelled the parent association in England. This proposal coming from Dr. Poulton, surprised me, in view of the negotiations respecting the re-establishment of the medical school and in connection with which his name has been so prominent. Now if the proposal had been so prominent, Dr. Anstey Giles for giving the branch Medical Association away, in his ornate address delivered on the occasion of his retirement from the chair, I could have understood it, for really the worthy doctor told the public too much. But to propose to expel members because they had the courage to differ from a few self-appointed leaders seems to me arbitrary, cruel, and unjust.—I am, &c.,
ARCHD. MACKIE.