

Advertiser 24 JUN 1924

Advertiser 24 JUN 1924

VIEWS AND COMMENTS.

KANGAROOS.

From Professor WOOD JONES, University of Adelaide:—In a letter appearing in your issue of June 10, and signed "Old Bushwoman," is a direct challenge that if I can prove that kangaroos are born, &c., &c., the writer will give £100 to the Children's Hospital. I would ask you to inform your correspondent that I am quite prepared to give a demonstration, place all the facts and specimens before her, and answer any questions, provided she is a solid and serious person, who will pay over the sum mentioned to the Children's Hospital in the event of the matter being agreed as proved. I will set aside any hour, and my theatre at the University, and will ask a competent member of your staff, a representative of the board of the Children's Hospital, and a few fair-minded and disinterested people to be present. Will you, therefore, kindly ask "Old Bushwoman" if these terms are considered suitable, and, if so, at what hour and on what day she would like the demonstration. I only stipulate that it should take place between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and that I have a day or so for notice. I have only to add that I will not be drawn into correspondence upon this subject; but, in fairness to myself, I ask you to publish this letter in the event of "Old Bushwoman" not accepting this offer of a demonstration of the facts of the case.

A copy of the above letter was sent to "Old Bushwoman," who has replied as follows:—"I think the professor's offer a fair one, and can assure you I mean what I say about the £100 to the Children's Hospital, but it must be proved that the young kangaroo is born, and also that it is nourished on the breast of the mother; as, for instance, we would not say a calf is nourished, on the breasts of a cow. You can see I am not the only one who holds the same view. These gentlemen replying to the professor's statements are all strangers to me, and I must have time to communicate with them to ask if they will attend the demonstration which the professor proposes giving, as I am too old—over threescore and ten; I am also diabetic, and suffer very much from heart weakness, and can seldom go about unattended.

Advertiser 10 JUN 1924

KANGAROOS.

From "OLD BUSHWOMAN":—"How are kangaroos born?" The smallest embryo I have ever seen was about the size of a Canadian Wonder bean, perfectly formed, in the pouch of the mother and grown on the end of the teat, of which she has two. The use of the second I can never understand, as I have never seen or heard of kangaroo twins. If you cut or tear this little joker off the teat it will bleed a few drops of blood, and the teat will also bleed more. The teat is from three to four inches in length, soft and flabby, about as thick as a slate pencil. I have seen the young as big as a mouse, then the size of a quail, and still pink, with no fur. Then the fur begins to grow, the eyes open, and it becomes detached from the teat. It now has a visible mouth you can put your little finger in; they will not bite, and the teeth are scarcely visible. I should say they would be six weeks or two months old, and I believe the mothers carry them in the pouch, which would hold a Pom. dog, until the young attain the age of four or five months. Is it likely that a marsupial almost the size of a small man would bring forth a young one the size of a small bean, pick it up, and place it in the pouch. It is absurd to say the young are nurtured on the breasts of a mother, who is as innocent of breasts as a postage pillar, except in the pouch. I have seen too many kangaroos to be misled by this tale, which, I am sorry to say, I read in "The Children's Hour" a few weeks ago. As I am not now in any way connected with the Education Department, I could not see my way clear to correct the error. If Professor Wood Jones can prove that kangaroos are born, and not "grows," like Topsy in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," I will donate £100 to the Children's Hospital. Although I can ill afford it, the truth must be told.

News 21.6.24

Dr. A. E. V. Richardson's appointment as director of the Walter Reade Research Institute has created much satisfaction in ministerial circles in South Australia. "Dr. Richardson is a wonderfully good man," said Mr. A. A. Kirkpatrick (Minister of Agriculture) today, "and if the whole of Australia had been searched I do not think the Institute could have found a more suitable man. His services will be immensely valuable to the farming community and the State generally, and we have every reason to congratulate ourselves on having him with us."

FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY.

On Saturday afternoon a party of field naturalists paid a visit to the Museum, and were taken in hand by Mr. Edgar R. Waite, the director. Attention was first called to the "Records of the Museum," instituted in 1913, and to a number of valuable handbooks which are in course of preparation by the South Australian branch of the British Science Guild. The following parts have appeared:—"Flora" (vol. 1.), by Mr. J. M. Black and Dr. Rogers; and (vol. 2.), by Mr. Black; "Fishes," by Mr. Edgar R. Waite; and "Mammals" (part 1.), by Professor Wood Jones. Other volumes to follow include "The Building of Australia and the Succession of Life," by Professor Howchin; "Types of Vegetation in South Australia," by Professor Osborn; "Seaweeds," by Mr. Osborn; "Plant Pathology," by Mr. G. Samuel; "Toadstools and Mushrooms," by Professor Cleland; "Spiders," by Dr. Pullen; "Beetles," by Mr. A. M. Lea; "Mollusks," by Sir Joseph Verco.

Mr. Waite discoursed on several species of butterflies and moths, and pointed out the differences between the two sections of Lepidoptera. The Ornithoptera (bird-winged), he explained, are rarely colored and beautifully marked. Specimens were obtained from the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, and New Ireland. Lord Rothschild paid as much as £100 for a specimen from the Tring Museum, and £30 for another. Butterflies from Cochinchina were admired. A living blind snake was shown and described as living underground, mainly on white ants. Having teeth only in the upper jaw, these reptiles cannot bite man, and the perfectly harmless. The scales are smooth, and similar in structure all round the body. These snakes have a thorny spike near the end of the tail. A Central Australian python nine feet long was taken from its box. It has no fangs, and no venom glands, but has an array of teeth. This reptile is known as Woma. Pythons lay eggs, and, although cold blooded, incubate them for some weeks. These snakes seize their prey and crush their victims in the coils, and swallow them head first. Both the blind snake and the woma were freely handled by the visitors, ladies included. The shell of the hawk's bill turtle was next examined. It has no toes, but only flippers, in which respect it differs from the tortoises. The shell is often infested with barnacles, which disfigure it for commercial purposes. Combs, bracelets, service rings, and spectacle frames are made from the shell. A skeleton of the green turtle, common in the waters of northern Australia, was compared with that of a tortoise. Mr. Waite then pointed out that no alligators are found in Australia, they being confined to tropical America and China. The reptiles here so called are really crocodiles. The difference between the two forms were pointed out. Skillfully executed and brilliantly colored casts of South Australian fish were greatly admired by the visitors. In the world's museum were several skulls of the natives of the New Hebrides and New Britain. These skulls were sadly deformed through the strange habit of banging the heads of infants. The forehead is pressed back, and the eyebrows raised by the bandages, giving the skull a low arch and the whole face a stupid appearance. Obviously, too, the development of the brain was arrested, as the intelligence is of a reduced order, and the natives lack initiative. Two skeletons side by side illustrated in a marked manner the differences between the upright features of the European and the projecting jaws of the aboriginal. The difference in the facial angle was also indicated.

Registered 24 JUN 1924

EXIT THE DAILY HERALD.

A meeting of the Co-operative Printing and Publishing Company was held at the Trades Hall on Monday evening when it was decided that the company should go into voluntary liquidation. Mr. M. A. Smedly was appointed liquidator. The company had been publishing The Daily Herald newspaper, the last issue of which was made on Monday of last week. The paper was first issued in 1910.

"News" 21 JUN 1924



Mrs. E. S. Kiek, B.A., B.D.

THE NEWS

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1924.

CONCILIATION

(By Prof. Coleman Phillipson.)

Conciliation is a beautiful word, and it implies a beautiful idea. It means, essentially, the process of overcoming the suspicion, distrust, or hostility of persons by amicable and pacifying means.

Disputes between persons may be settled by force. That is a barbarous method leading to anarchy, and ultimately it really becomes a suicidal proceeding. A settlement may also be reached by compulsory recourse to a court of justice, but in the growing complexity of business life its intervention is often found to be costly and protracted, and not infrequently leaves the parties lifelong enemies.

A third means of settling differences is by conciliation or arbitration. This is a method eminently suitable for small or trifling matters, private affairs, and generally for people who cannot afford the luxury of paying heavy fees, and those who are anxious to avoid the publicity, glamor, and nerve-racking experience of a trial in a court of justice.

Courts of Arbitration.

The Justices' Association of South Australia is now making a laudable effort to extend the use of courts of arbitration. I know personally several of the members of its council. They are animated by a fine spirit of public and social service; they desire to promote unity and co-operation in the community by leading disputants to a friendly solution at very small expense, and are anxious to discourage public litigation that can really be avoided, and the consequent impoverishment of suitors.

Every thinking person must wish the association well, and for my part I must say that if it succeeds in popularising its scheme it will have accomplished a great task of enduring benefit to all—to the public as well as to the courts of justice, which are constantly overtaxed with cases.

The aim of the Justices' Association is in the first instance a modest one—that is, to set up arbitration courts for all ordinary social, commercial, and industrial disputes, with certain special exceptions, and to conduct their proceedings under the Arbitration Act of 1891, which provides that with the consent of both parties disputes may be referred to arbitration.

There is nothing new in this machinery. What is new is the association's effort to make it more popular, and, above all, the great facilities it offers to the public by placing men of character and experience at their disposal. It may be that such arbitration courts will pave the way to the establishment of courts of conciliation, for there is an important difference between the two.

Courts of Conciliation—Origin.

Courts of Conciliation are found in several European countries—France, Italy, Norway, Denmark—and in some of the American States. Their origin is interesting.

In 1790 the revolutionary National Assembly in France established the system of "juges de paix" (justices of the peace). The latter were to be elected by the people and were to hear cases relating to damage to fields, fruits, or crops, and disputes as to land, rent, wages, slander, quarrels, assaults, etc. If the amount involved was not more than £2 they could decide without appeal.

The aim of these "paternal magistrates" (as a French historian calls them) was to supplant the rigor of the written law by the spirit of equity, to procure a respect for justice by making it loved, and to discourage litigation, especially of the petty and trifling kind.

Such countries as Norway and Denmark at once seized upon this idea and set up Conciliation Courts, which have come down to this day and are probably the best examples of such courts in existence.

Function and Procedure.

In Norway every parish has its Court of Conciliation, some of whose members are nominated by the district council and some elected for three years by the inhabitants. The court has jurisdiction over civil cases only, and resort is compulsory, except in certain matters. Such attempt to effect a conciliation constitutes the first step in a civil action. That is, the courts of law will hear only such cases as come up from the Conciliation Court after its efforts have failed.

The procedure is simple, avoiding all technicality. The plaintiff fills in a form stating the facts of his case, and requests that the defendant be called to meet him before the court, so that they may try to come to an understanding. He pays a very small fee for the summons, and adds a trifling sum in case of successful settlement. The parties appear personally, and lawyers are generally excluded. The meeting of the court is private, and its members are bound to secrecy. If conciliation is reached the parties are bound by its terms; if it fails, the case is taken to a court of law, but admissions and concessions made by a party cannot there be used against him.

The atmosphere and spirit of the Conciliation Court makes for simplicity, informality, directness, frankness, and so have a pacifying effect on the parties, who usually leave the court on friendly terms.

Their Great Value.

This process of conciliation prevents a large proportion of law suits, especially litigation due to trifling or imaginary grievances, or begun on the advice of those who are to "get something out of it."

Roughly about three-quarters of civil cases in Norway are thus amicably adjusted. Great relief is therefore afforded to the ordinary courts of law. The justice administered is speedy, inexpensive, and does not beget ill-will and hostility, and in any event recourse to the court, even when unsuccessful, serves as a "cooling-off" period. It fosters in the people a spirit of substantial fairness and straight dealing, and discourages the use of legal quibbles and subtle technicalities, so that the commercial and social relations of the people are placed on a more salutary basis.

Finally, such Courts of Conciliation are in keeping with the finest spirit and highest ideals in the world of today in regard to the promotion of peace and friendliness, comradeship, and co-operation among all.

Registered 25 JUN 1924

AUSTRALIAN MUSIC.

EXAMINATIONS BOARD.

Teachers of music are advised to note a printer's error in the new edition (1924) of Grade 4 Pianoforte Book. In the Bach Gavotte, on Page 20, lines one and two appear in reversed order. This will be rectified in the next reprint. Cx