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Advertiser 11 JUN 1924

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English ideals and ideas have naturally shaped our State educational systems. One of the chief functions of the State is recognised as the wise provision of facilities for education, in other words machinery for turning out citizens "in the round." For our schools, in the economic sense, are factories of an extremely practical kind.

The position for both teacher and taught has slowly become intolerable. All over the world protests are being made against the overloaded curriculum and the "impossible standard." Every year, in every State, at almost the worst possible season, we see hordes of young students pined in sweltering halls to undergo the torture known as public examinations. Every school can supply instances of serious breakdown under the strain. Boys and girls are pushed through much the same training, irrespective of physiology and function. On the other hand the schools, rightly or wrongly, are being saddled with much of the laxity and social unrest of the day.

Our educational system is of a bifurcate nature. Side by side exist the State and privately controlled schemes, and beyond the common aim of the University examination there is no co-ordination. They scarcely ever come into contact. Yet the ideal is the same for all—the making of good citizens.

As has happened so often before in important public activities this State has made the first move. This week will see the commencement of a conference which will embrace all shades of educational thought. Kindergarten and university professors will exchange views, scientists and literateur will debate vital issues. The importance of the main topic will dominate the discussion—What do we mean by a liberal education?

In a courageous attempt to straighten the crooked and narrow way the teachers of the State will wrestle with these problems during the next few days. All thoughtful folk will wish them well, and follow their deliberations with careful, and indeed anxious, attention.

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MISS CHARLOTTE GRIVELL.

A FAREWELL RECITAL.

The friends and admirers of Miss Charlotte Grivell assembled in force at the Adelaide Town Hall last night. She was literally loaded with flowers and presents. They covered all the front of the platform and overflowed to the pianoforte cover. Before her final encore Miss Grivell delivered a short speech, in which she thanked Lady Bridges, who was present, and all the people of Adelaide who had so generously helped her. All that she could do to uphold the honor of Australia both in character and musical sense it would be her highest aim to do. Most emphatically she hoped that she would be able to justify the confidence placed in her by Adelaide people.

Miss Grivell first came into notice in 1920, when she competed in the contraalto solo section at the Peace Exhibition competitions. Professor Ives gave her song first prize, and a third prize was won in the championship. Miss Grivell now holds the Elder Scholarship tenable at the R.A.M., London, and leaves shortly to take advantage of this fine opportunity. The young contraalto has been the pupil of her brother, Mr. Sable Grivell, with the exception of the last few months, when private lessons have been taken under the direction of Mr. Winsloe Hall. For this concert Miss Grivell had chosen Handel's recitative and air, "Ombra mai fu" and Percy Kahn's "Ave Maria" for numbers with organ accompaniment. The quality of her voice has not been impaired by strain or overwork, and there was much freshness, roundness and smoothness to admire. No trace of nervousness was apparent, which is reassuring to both performer and listener. The chief charm of this contraalto's singing is when she is using the upper register; it is so clear and resonant and free from harshness. At present the lower voice is not produced so fluently or musically, although the material is there, and further study will correct the tightness. Her interpretation of Malcolm McMillan's Arabian song cycle, "The heart of Farazda," which includes the subjects, "The question," "Before her mirror," "In the rose garden," "At the mosque," "The cry to Azrael" was admirable. The whole series had been well studied. Further songs which the audience applauded generously were Brahms' "A night in May," Beethoven's "The praise of God," Hope Temple's "An old garden," Montague Phillips' "Night in a high," and Greville-Smith's "Daybreak." Special requests were Leon's "Leaves and the wind," "A fairy went a-marketing," and Hollar's "Three fishers."

Mr. Harold Parsons' violoncello solos were of exquisite finish in every detail. They were Andantino by Cesar Cui and two Haydn movements, Adagio and Minuet. The latter was in variation form and had to be supplemented by another contribution, played with due regard for poetic expression. Mr. Harold Wylde was equally successful in the double role of solo organist and accompanist. His solos were bracketed by D'Evry, a meditation of pensive beauty, and a brilliant Toccatto. Mr. Wylde was a valuable help to the soloist as accompanist at the pianoforte and organ.

CAUSE OF CANCER.

SIR N. HOWSE SCEPTICAL.

Melbourne, June 10. "I am, of course, interested in the statement in this morning's cable news that a Toronto doctor has discovered the cause of cancer," said General Sir Neville Howse, V.C., to-day. "So many cancer discoveries during the past 20 years have turned out 'duds,' he continued, "that I cannot help feeling sceptical. I want very definite evidence before I am prepared to accept the story in the cables. Until the cause of the malignancy is discovered there is no possibility that we will be able to give sufferers any real hope of a cure and of reducing the present appalling mortality."

ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Melbourne, June 10. Immediate action is to be taken by the Federal Government to investigate the reported discovery by a Canadian doctor of the cause of cancer, and of the successful curative treatment. Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) said to-day that Mr. Donald Mackinnon (Australian Commissioner in New York) would be asked to make the fullest investigation. If the claims stand investigation the discovery will be one of the greatest in science for all time. A cable message from Philadelphia reported that after having been withheld from publication for 15 months, an article had appeared in the "North American" announcing the discovery by Dr. T. J. Glover, of Toronto, of the cause of cancer, as well as a curative treatment, which although still in the experimental stage is producing remarkable results.

Dr. Cumpston (the Federal Director of Health) said the cabled reports were certainly promising. However, such a preliminary announcement must be treated with some degree of reservation.

Dr. Charles Kellaway (Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne Hospital), said it was necessary to sound a note of warning with regard to the alleged cures of cancer and consumption. If the report were true that the publication of the discovery had been delayed 15 months pending further research and confirmation, that added weight to the present announcement.

DISEASE NOT DUE TO INFECTION.

The claim of a Canadian doctor to have discovered the cause of cancer and also a treatment of the disease was on Tuesday referred to Professor Brailsford Robertson, of the Adelaide University, who is carrying out cancer research work in connection with the disease in mice. He said until he had a full report of Dr. Glover's investigations into cancer and his treatment of the disease he could not express a definite opinion on the alleged cures. Dr. Glover's claim, however, that the disease was due to a micro-organism was not in line with the general opinion among research workers, which was that cancer was not due to infection. A great many people had worked on the assumption that cancer was due to micro-organisms, but had failed to find that they were a cause of the disease.

In his researches at the Adelaide University Professor Robertson explained, he had confined himself to the spontaneous recurrence of cancer in animals. With mice it had been discovered that about 30 per cent. developed the disease if kept until they were old enough. They were trying to correlate these facts with the animal's growth in early life, its diet and any other factors relating to it. Slowly they were accumulating information about the development of the disease in animals. They knew that most species of animals did contract cancer. He could not say whether the percentage was as high as or higher than in mice, but it was very common in rats. It had also been ascertained that the growth-cells on plants were analogous to cancer in animals.

Cancer was due to certain cells declaring their independence of the rest of the body cells. "Before we can attack the disease with prospects of success," said the professor, "we must find out all we can about the growth of normal cells and how they escape from control. When we understand more of the facts concerning cell growth we shall be on our way to a knowledge of the cause of cancer." The cancer cell was susceptible and more easily poisoned than the normal cell, hence the efficacy of the X-ray in the treatment of cancerous growths. The ray was merely a form of surgery. It killed the cells, but did not cut them out. There were many different kinds of tumors, but less than one-half of the tumors which occurred were malignant. Portions of these cells became detached and wandered in the blood stream and lymph stream, and finally lodged in other parts of the body and grew there. In the case of slowly growing tumors of rounded outline and few of the cells, if any, undergoing multiplication, it was a comparatively easy matter to eradicate them, but it was much more difficult to get all round a growth of many branches which was ripping the cell tissue. Obviously the smaller the growth the greater the chance of removing it.

"It is of extreme importance," Professor Robertson added, "that people should secure the advice of a surgeon when they detect the first traces of an unusual appearance which they suspect might be due to a growth. Very often early operation makes all the difference between success and failure, between life and death."

Dr. W. S. Carter, assistant director of the division of medical education of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York, who is in Adelaide, was asked his opinion of Dr. Glover's alleged discovery, but he declined to make any comment until he had more details than those contained in the brief cable message.

THE NEWS

ADELAIDE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1924.

MAKING WAR ON CANCER

Whatever the result, the immediate action taken by Mr. Bruce (the Prime Minister) to investigate the reported successful treatment of cancer by a Toronto doctor, is highly gratifying. Mr. Bruce's promptness is in striking contrast to the usual red-tape methods.

Above most world problems stands the quest of a curative treatment for cancer. Civilisation is aghast at the ravages of the disease which is responsible, according to the statistics of 1923, for the death of 86 people in every 100,000 of the population. Those figures had grown from 55 in every 100,000 in 1880, an increase of 58 per cent. in 43 years. Perhaps this development is not so staggering as it seems, because the disease was not so readily recognised 40 or 50 years ago as it is today, but it is sufficiently alarming to invoke all the resources of money and science to counteract it.

The Empire Research Committee has laid down the lines on which investigations should be made, and there are many medical men and scientists in other branches of research who are willing to devote themselves to the task. All that is needed is the money.

Research of this description is tedious and expensive, and the tens of thousands of pounds which have been spent upon it have been provided by private benevolence. So far the outcome of these efforts has been the acquisition of a wider knowledge of the occurrence and manifestation of the malady, but its cause and successful treatment still baffle mankind. Medical science is little further forward in those respects than it was 100 years ago, except that it has been found that in many cases cures have resulted from surgical operations in the very early stages of the evil.

In these circumstances it appears as if the problem has got beyond the realm of individual giving, and has reached the dimensions of a national or, rather, an international concern, because the disease is common to all the peoples of the earth. As a world-wide evil there should be a world-wide effort to eradicate it, every country participating and providing its proportion of the funds. Here is an avenue into which the activities of the League of Nations might be directed most profitably.

The people are crying out for relief and the Parliaments of the nations should take it in hand. They will not be moved, however, until some strong man, looking beyond the narrow horizon of party politics, is sufficiently broadminded and sympathetic to devote his energies and influence to remove this insatiable death agent.

New South Wales has established a committee for the promulgation of cancer research, and recently they formed a deputation to the Minister of Health, who was sympathetic but shelved the financial aspect. The note that the question was a national one was not sounded, though it is abundantly clear that expense incurred in destroying disease and providing for the good health of the community should be a charge upon the general revenue. Sir Neville Howse, V.C., wisely urges that in addition to Federal and State grants, there should be private subscriptions. These would enable research to be undertaken in each State.

It is time that South Australia made some movement toward shouldering her share of responsibility in the endeavor to find a means of exterminating the scourge. One excellent way of assisting would be to ensure generous recognition and financial help for the research work being carried on at the Adelaide University.

Register, 12 JUN 1924

DISEASED STOCK.

Need for Research Institute.

A resolution was passed at the Kangaroo Island conference last week urging that the Stock and Brands Department enforce the provisions of the Stock Diseases Act. The question was discussed at a meeting of the Advisory Board of Agriculture on Wednesday. The secretary (Mr. H. J. Finnis) stated that a farmer on the island had told him that he had lost between 300 and 350 sheep in a year from coast disease, which also affected both the carcase and wool. The man could only use the ewes for two years, and it was suggested that a veterinary officer might be set aside to investigate the trouble.

Mr. W. J. Colebatch said it was time attention was turned toward research work in this State, and he hoped it would be a branch of the research institute at Urrbrae. A laboratory for veterinary research should be established.

Mr. A. B. Feuerbeerdts said he had had considerable experience with coast disease and thought it was caused by nothing more or less than an intestinal worm.

Mr. Finnis said worm infestation was suggested, but sheep were slaughtered and no worms were found.

Mr. Colebatch said dietetic troubles were the cause of the disease.

Mr. W. S. Kelly said he was in sympathy with linking the proposal up with the bigger question of sheep diseases. He thought they should act independently of the research institute, which was ultimately going to arrive, but was rather a long time coming, meanwhile an immense amount of loss was being incurred. The Stock Department had its hand full, and he was positive no better move could be made than the appointment of a man to study sheep diseases. They were losing thousands of pounds worth of sheep, and very many of them from preventable causes.

At the instance of Mr. G. Jeffrey, seconded by Mr. Wallace Sandford, a committee consisting of Messrs. Kelly, C. A. Loxton (Chief Inspector of Stock) and Colebatch was appointed to report to the board on the question of the establishment of a research institute for sheep diseases.