

### UNIVERSITIES IN CALIFORNIA

#### MORE DEMOCRATIC THAN AUSTRALIAN

Mr. John Levers Bourke, a former Melbourne "Herald" contributor, who went with Professor Elton Mayo to America in 1923, is most impressed with Californian universities in comparison with those of Australia.

His experience at Stanford proved the practicability of the students maintaining themselves while learning. Except in technical position, they supply the entire staffs in the dormitories and dining halls. They do harvesting and manual labor in the vacation, and if short of money they go out to work for a year.

This promotes a democratic atmosphere, though it tends to confer education in life rather than from a cultural viewpoint. A capital of 100 dollars (£20) can assure a university education, because three meals a day are provided. The rent room at Stanford is 4 dollars (normally 16/8) a month. Clothing is cheap. Usually the indestructible khaki corduroys are worn.

The desire is to generalise education rather than confine its benefits to staled classes of society, as in Australia.

—More Chances for Talent.— America differs from Australia in that there are wider opportunities for talent to justify itself. Half the University teachers have worked their way through. Mr. H. C. Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, "hatched" this is, he was a waiter at Stanford.

Bequests and contributions from ex-graduates are frequent in American universities, particularly if football successes arouse enthusiasm. The football coach is the highest paid official, receiving £4000 a year, compared with £2000 for the president, and £1000 for each of the professors. The final game is the central event of the University year. It is given lavish publicity. Berkeley versus Stanford attracted an attendance of 70,000 people at five dollars (£1) a seat. The money is used to increase the residential capacities of the universities.

After taking the Economics degree at Stanford, Mr. Bourke joined the teaching staff at Berkeley State University.

The Californian universities are closely in touch with the people. They eclipse the Australian institutions in physical education. There are medical insurance, and a free hospital service, except for major operations. Compulsory classes, frequent tests, and insistence on two years' cultural work before doing professional work, secure efficiency. Mr. Bourke will return to California in 1926.

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#### A Liberal Education.

"Education Week" has become very popular in England, and the work of the scholars for infants to secondary school students is on view. During the evenings prominent men give appropriate addresses on educational matters, and public interest is aroused. All the leaders of thought take part in one or other of these "works," and great benefit is derived from the functions. Adelaide will shortly have an opportunity of hearing the views of experts on education, for the Educational Society of South Australia will hold a conference in the North Terrace Institute for five days, beginning on Thursday, June 12. Every phase of educational activity will be represented, and the ladies and gentlemen who are set down for the various subjects should be a sufficient guarantee that the sessions will be highly instructive. The public will be admitted on payment of a small fee, and all interested in education should attend one or more of the lectures. Later on in the month the annual conference of the S.A.P.T. Union will be held, so that there will be no lack of educational activity for weeks to come. It has been said by some that the multiplication of secondary schools is an evil, but a student of this matter will soon discover that the demand increases in proportion to the supply, if not in a greater ratio. When the value of higher education is learned, people would not lose the secondary school from their district, for they recognise that it stands for culture. The primary school standard is not high enough to supply the student with what he needs for life, but any one who has gone through a secondary course, will find himself well prepared for his duties as a citizen. In large centres, the future schools will be cultural with a vocational bias, or vice-versa, and these will be of incalculable benefit to young men and women. "A margin of comfort with regular employment always makes for culture." Even those who do not have the advantage of a university training, will make their mark in life, if they have distinguished themselves in the secondary or vocational-cultural schools, and the more these are available to young people the greater will be the demand by students.

### PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

#### Work of Rockefeller Foundation.

At the Rotary Club's luncheon on Friday, Dr. W. S. Carter (Associate Director, Division of Medical Education, Rockefeller Foundation, New York) gave an interesting and instructive address on "Preventive Medicine." The President (Mr. D. Eardley McLaren) handed the chairmanship of the meeting over to Mr. H. Crawford.

Dr. Carter said he had visited some of the institutions of South Australia, and the people had reason for great pride in their medical school at the Adelaide University. He was impressed with the work the hospitals were doing, but more room was an urgent need. Building activities, however, were in operation at the Adelaide Hospital extension, which ought to meet the needs of the institution. No field of human endeavour offered such opportunities for doing good to mankind as did that of preventive medicine. The Rockefeller Foundation had many departments engaged in research in the field of preventive medicines. The Foundation was an institution of medical research. Its Director (Dr. Simon Flexner) was engaged in the most difficult research. He had chosen diseases causing most frightful mortality, diseases believed at present to be beyond control or cure. The Director had given special attention to bacillary dysentery, and had evolved a serum which, in the early stages of the disease, was proving effective. Dr. Flexner's anti-toxin for meningitis (which disease sometimes had the heavy mortality of 90 per cent.) had reduced the deaths to less than 20 per cent., whether the serum were used in the early stages or not. The doctor had made similar research into infantile paralysis. The institution was investigating a serum treatment for pneumonia. One of the most brilliant achievements had been the research in regard to yellow fever. They had found its origin had almost exterminated disease. People in Australia could not appreciate the dangers of that fatal ailment, but he had lived for many years in the Southern United States and Central America. The completion of the Panama Canal had depended on the control of yellow fever and malaria as much as upon the engineering skill required to build the canal. The Rockefeller Foundation had control of large sums, and was trying to make the best use of the money. A medical school and hospital had been established at Peking, China, for the extension of curative medical research; but viewed in the broader sense it would have the effect of extending preventive medicine, because large numbers of young men were being trained as doctors, and young women as nurses.

#### Hookworm.

A subsidiary work of the Foundation was the international health board, at present co-operating with the Commonwealth and State Government of Australia for the control and prevention of the hookworm disease. It had done valuable work in the Central and Southern States of America, in China, Siam, Java, and Kiang-pang. In Australia the percentage of infestation was not as great as in other countries, such as Java, the Philippines, and Siam, where up to 90 per cent. of the people were infected. The board had educated the people in proper methods of living, sanitation, and the proper disposal of human waste, in order to prevent recurrence of the disease. The educational work of the International Health Board was as great as the curative work in restoring the people to health after they had suffered from the hookworm disease, because there were no health officers or qualified men. In Siam, the board had treated 350,000 people in six years.

#### Vaccination Neglected.

Mental education in Siam had not kept pace with the times, and the board was co-operating with the Government in giving medical instruction, so that men might be trained as qualified health officers and physicians. It was surprising how indifferent people became about diseases that could be prevented. As an instance, smallpox might be prevented by vaccination, yet English-speaking peoples had such regard for personal liberties that vaccination was purely voluntary. In the Spanish-American war, during which there was an outbreak of smallpox, it was found that a generation had grown up without having been vaccinated. The speaker said he was in Hongkong last year, and had witnessed the ravages of smallpox. In the month of January there were more than 300 deaths from the disease. In Java there had been a large amount of beri-beri caused by the eating of highly polished rice; and although the people had been warned that it was dangerous to use the rice in that form, they would not cease from eating it, but were anxious to take the husks as a drug. Nothing had been done, and the Governments were supremely indifferent. There was a personal responsibility in regard to protective

medicine, of securing immunity for the individual and the community. But for vaccination and inoculation it would have been impossible for the Allied armies to have carried on in the Great War; but in peace times the people were indifferent. There was too much tendency to place the responsibility upon Government officials.

#### Child Welfare.

Dr. Carter added that recently he had taken an interest in child welfare, which offered a field for preventive medicine both promising and hopeful. In the United States centres had been established for the study of infant mortality, and by reason of that fact, and as the outcome of private education in the matter, great results had accrued. New Zealand had the lowest infant mortality rate in the world, and he thought Australia was next. He did not think the healthy climates alone of those centres accounted for the low death rate, for other places equally healthy had larger percentages of infant deaths. A more important factor than climate was the intelligent co-operation of the people. The homogeneous population of Australia and New Zealand had its advantages. There were great difficulties in controlling health in Eastern countries, owing to the mixtures of races. The same applied in a certain degree to the United States, where they now went to the extent of taking extreme measures, because they had been too lax in the past. In New Zealand infant mortality had been reduced by one-half, and in the United States in 20 years from 140 deaths per thousand births to 80 per thousand. More than a thousand lives were being saved in New Zealand as the result of educational work. The natural born were the most desirable citizens any country could have, and the system of visiting nurses to mothers and prospective mothers was a most commendable thing. (Applause.)

At the instance of the Chairman, a vote of thanks was extended to Dr. Carter.

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A meeting of the chairmen of the committees of the State Advisory Council of Science and Industry, was held on Friday to appoint a delegate to the council for the next meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, which is held in Adelaide in August. Those present included Dr. Hargreaves (chairman of the council), Mr. E. H. Bakewell (pastoral committee), Mr. S. J. Jacobs (trade, commerce, and transport committee), Mr. G. Jeffrey (agriculture committee), and Mr. J. K. Samuel (mineral committee). Mr. Jacobs was unanimously appointed to represent the council, which is fortunate in obtaining his services.

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### AN EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.

#### PROBLEMS OF EDUCATION.

The second annual conference of the Educational Society of South Australia will open on Thursday morning next and continue until Monday. Addresses will be delivered by prominent educationists of the State. The association comprises all educational institutions, from kindergartens to the University, and its aim is to keep abreast of educational thought. The main purpose of this year's conference is to define more exactly, if possible, what is required in a liberal education. The detailed lecture programme of the session is as follows:—

- June 12—"The Place of Art," by Mr. H. B. Van Raalte; "The Place of Music," Mr. F. L. Gratton; "The Humanities," Professor Darnley Naylor.
- June 13—"The Place of Science," Professors Osborne and Kerr Grant; "The Sex Problem," Professor Brailsford Robertson and Mr. A. C. Garnett.
- June 14—"Intelligence Testing," Miss Berry; "Dancerose Eurhythmics," Miss Heather Gell.
- June 16—"A Reformed Timetable," Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth; "The Teaching of English," Messrs. R. C. Bald and E. Allen.

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Mr. C. R. Hodge, who has been connected with the Adelaide University for nearly 40 years, and for the last 30 years in the capacity of Registrar, in which he has rendered valuable service, has retired from his position. To the large number of persons who have attended his many lectures, his devotion to duty and unflinching courtesy will be a lasting reminder of their association with the departing registrar.

### THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA.

#### A PROGRESSIVE COMBINATION.

It is a tribute to the progress of the South Australian Orchestra that, although several rival attractions were patronised by a large section of the community, the Town Hall was entirely booked up for the second concert on Saturday night. It was obvious, too, that real enthusiasm prevailed the large audience. The earnest endeavor to educate the people of Adelaide orchestral was shown by the inclusion of works of an advanced character. This applies particularly to the music from "The Dusk of the Gods," Dvorak's "Carneval," and the Tchaikowsky Concerto. Mr. W. H. Foote, who has formed an estimate of how much to expect from the band, is a conductor who transmits to his forces a glowing vitality. He is genuinely concerned with dramatic situations, intensity of rhythmical outline, and realisation of climaxes and contrasts. With longer association and greater opportunities for rehearsals Mr. Foote and his co-workers may be expected to arrive at the highest state of efficiency and artistic development.

The programme included two Wagner numbers. The first was "Siegfried's Journey to the Rhine," an arrangement by Humperdinck of an interlude in the first act of "The Dusk of the Gods." It is wonderful music, which describes dawn, sunrise, broad daylight, and the departure of Siegfried. Although the orchestra appeared to know the score the beauties of the work were not fully described. In the wood-wind section the temperature apparently had an effect on tonality. This was not noticeable, however, in the "Tannhauser" overture, after the instruments had "warmed up." The overture was thoroughly enjoyed from beginning to end and had to be partly repeated. The same compliment was extended to the "Welsh Rhapsody," by Edward German, who has welded, in almost symphonic form, the well-known songs of Wales, his native country. There is a strong Sullivan suggestion in this work, due to the influence of master over pupil. Dvorak's riot of color and orchestration in the "Carneval" music gave the orchestra a grateful task. It was entered upon in spirited fashion and conveyed the scenes with typical reality. Miss Sylvia Whittington did excellent work as leader of the orchestra.

The Tchaikowsky Concerto in B flat minor, Op. 23, is one of the most representative works of its class. It is innately symphonic and portrays the Slavonic element. The pianoforte part is very full and not written so "pianistically" as to be easily under the fingers. Consequently it demands a vast amount of study and control of technique from the executant. The imposing pianoforte part was played by Mr. George Pearce, who is a well-known Adelaide pianist formerly from the studio of Mr. William Silver and now a member of the staff of the Elder Conservatorium. Mr. Pearce found the massive chordal work, brilliant arpeggios, broken triplets in unison, and vivid octave passages a worthy medium for his technical powers. His enunciation of the principal themes was remarkably clear; the two cadenzas were played with distinctive eloquence; the Andantino Semplice (second movement) in the relative major key showed the pianist's power of creating atmosphere and control of delicate pianissimo. The finale, Allegro con fuoco, with its gaiety, restless figuration, and thundering volley of chords and octaves in the last pages, was suffused with brilliant bravura playing. The orchestra had given discriminating attention to a score which provided severe tests in the matters of fragmentary entrances, constantly changing tonalities, and distracting rhythms. Mr. Pearce has strengthened his position greatly by this fine performance, a fact which was conveyed to him by applause of marked fervency.

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The Graduates' Association of the Adelaide University will hold a social at the Elder Conservatorium on Thursday evening, June 19. Professor Harold Davitt will provide a musical programme.