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Advertiser 5 APR 1924

**Rapid Advancement.**

It falls to the lot of few men to make such rapid and solid advancement as has distinguished the career of Mr. Richardson, and fewer still are able to say, as he is, that every step has been won absolutely by his own unaided effort. Blessed with a magnificent physique, he has absorbed knowledge by studying and stewing every precious minute and hour at his disposal. As a scholar he was remarkably successful. He was dux of the Adelaide Agricultural School for four terms and gold medalist; he secured a first-class diploma at Roseworthy Agricultural College, and at the Adelaide University took degrees in the following order:—1907, Bachelor of Arts; 1908, Bachelor of Science (Agric.); 1910, Master of Arts. He obtained the John Howard Clark Scholarship for English language and literature at the University, and was highly commended for his thesis for the science degree by the Sydney University authorities. It is a noteworthy fact that during his academic course he passed first class in the following subjects in the science and art courses:—Botany, biology, compulsory chemistry, inorganic and physical chemistry, organic chemistry, practical agricultural chemistry, geology (part II.), economics, physiology, logic, education, modern European history, English language, and literature.

**Appointments.**

In 1903 Mr. Richardson entered the Education Department, and for three years was assistant at the Moonta Mines and Port Adelaide Public Schools, after which he joined the University Training College. During 1908 he was appointed assistant lecturer at the college, and later in that year became Assistant Director of Agriculture. In the interregnum between the departure of Professor Angus and the appointment of Professor Lowrie Mr. Richardson acted as Director of Agriculture, in which sphere he gave convincing proof of his administrative capacity. Mr. Richardson is essentially a scientist, and when he took up his residence at the Parafield Experimental Farm a couple of years ago it was with a feeling of intense satisfaction at the prospect of engaging in the difficult pursuit of wheat breeding with the ultimate possibility of raising varieties which might prove of great benefit to the country. Having made encouraging progress in that undertaking Mr. Richardson will leave Parafield, no doubt, with a sense of deep regret. He will, however, have the consolation of carrying away with him the knowledge that a number of exceedingly promising and new varieties of wheat will shortly be available for distribution among the farmers.

**The New Post.**

Mr. Richardson has signed an agreement with the Victorian Department of Agriculture for a period of five years at a salary beginning at £650 per annum. He will be the chief of the agricultural divisions, and, subject to the Director (Dr. S. S. Cameron), will control, direct, and be responsible for the work of the branches comprising the division, viz.:—Horticultural, science, chemistry, and field. He will be required to arrange and undertake the giving of lectures and demonstrations on agricultural subjects, organize, control, and report on all experimental and demonstration work of an agricultural character that may be deemed necessary by the Director, and assist generally in the promotion and improvement of agricultural practice. In leaving South Australia Mr. Richardson, who will probably take up his new duties at the beginning of August, will bear with him the heartfelt and best wishes of all tillers of the soil.

Since 1911 Mr. Richardson has gained great distinction in Victoria, and has travelled abroad in his official capacity.

News

31 MAR 1924

**BRILLIANT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN**

**Mr. A. E. V. Richardson Honored**

**Some Roseworthy Productions**

Mr. A. E. V. Richardson (lecturer in agriculture at the University of Melbourne and Agricultural Superintendent in the Victorian Department of Agriculture) has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Science, mainly on account of his work on wheat and wheat breeding, and on the water requirements of farm crops. This is the first occasion on which the degree of Doctor of Science has been awarded at Melbourne on purely agricultural subjects.

Mr. Richardson is one of South Australia's brilliant sons, whose talents were lost to his native State because of the higher pay and more attractive conditions offering in Victoria. He is regarded as one of Australia's leading figures in agricultural science.

Born on September 12, 1883, Mr. Richardson in his youth attended the agricultural school at the Adelaide School of Mines. From there he took a scholarship to Roseworthy College. He was for three years at that institution, where his ability was soon re-

ognised and a meritorious career predicted for him. Upon leaving Roseworthy Mr. Richardson became a teacher at the agricultural school at the School of Mines. On March 1, 1902, he joined the Education Department, and it was while a school teacher that he took his B.Sc. and M.A. degrees. Then on July 27, 1908, Mr. Richardson became associated with the South Australian Department of Agriculture as assistant director to Professor W. Angus.

It soon became apparent that Mr. Richardson was possessed of more than ordinary talent. He did magnificent work as a lecturer in the country and paid particular attention to the selection of wheats and the breeding of new varieties. On August 7, 1911, he accepted a lucrative appointment of Superintendent of Agriculture in Victoria, and his work in the sister State has made his name a household word in agricultural circles throughout Australia. The Werribee Research Farm, near Melbourne, from which extremely good results have accrued to the rural community, was organised by him. At 41 years of age Mr. Richardson is still experimenting and gathering knowledge.

In addition to Mr. Richardson, South Australia and Roseworthy College have given to the Commonwealth many men of brilliant attainment in the agricultural world. Mr. Elrks, who holds the Roseworthy diploma, was made principal of Dookie Agricultural College in Victoria. That State also secured Mr. H. C. Wilson to manage the Werribee Experimental Farm. Other States, too, have realised the value of man trained at Roseworthy. Mr. F. K. Watson holds an important post in the New South Wales Irrigation Department, and in Queensland Mr. W. C. Keane is the poultry superintendent for soldier settlement. Mr. P. S. Rumball, who was also trained at Roseworthy, is his assistant.

Other Roseworthy graduates have gone still further afield. Mr. E. J. O'Brien, is now Deputy Commissioner of Live Stock in Bombay, a position which his scientific training in South Australia undoubtedly enabled him to acquire.

Palestine is paying great attention to agricultural development, and an old Roseworthy man in Mr. G. G. Mason holds the responsible post of Agricultural Superintendent of the Department of Agriculture in Palestine. Even in far away Morocco Mr. Young, another Roseworthy student, is demonstrating the possibilities of raising merino sheep.

Register

3 APR 1924

**ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.**

The first students' concert of the 1924 season of the Elder Conservatorium will be given in the Elder Hall next Monday evening, and will consist of a varied and interesting programme of musical works. Teachers, students, and all lovers of music are invited to realize the educational value of these concerts; the cost of attending which is comparatively little. The scope of the programme is made as comprehensive and interesting as possible; and with a view to increase the appreciation of audiences, explanatory notes are added where necessary. A season ticket (transferable) is issued at 15/ (no tax), and entitles the holder to admission to the whole series of concerts. Season ticket holders may reserve their seats for single concerts or for the whole season at the box office. Single tickets for the separate concerts are also obtainable. Tickets, served without extra charge. Tickets, programmes, and so on may be obtained at Allan's Limited, Rundle street, or at the office of the Elder Conservatorium. The business manager is Mr. F. Bowden, c/o Allan's, to whom enquiries may be made. Mr. G. W. Gray will give three flute soli (bracketed number). The first will be played on the ordinary concert flute in C, while the others will be on a bass flute. It is claimed that this is the only bass flute that has been brought to Australia. This class of instrument was perfected about 1870 by Theobald Boehm, of Munich. He set out to produce an instrument with entirely different characteristics from the ordinary concert flute, which he had 20 years before improved to its present state, and in that was eminently successful. The tone of a bass flute as compared with a concert flute in C may best be likened to a pure contralto voice compared with a soprano. However, owing to the large size of the holes it is not suitable for pieces requiring rapid execution, but is better adapted to music of the cantabile or song style, in which the works of Schumann and Schubert abound. There are three reasons why the bass flute has not gained greater prominence:—(1) Little music has been published for it, making it necessary for the player to transpose either the flute part or the accompaniment to a suitable key, for, being pitched a fifth below the piano, the two parts must necessarily be written in different keys; (2) inability of many players to produce a good tone, owing to the large bore and length of the barrel and the requirement of a powerful lip to produce and

maintain a good quality of tone; and (3) the expense. The mechanism of the bass flute is much more complicated and more delicate than that of the ordinary flute, and, owing to the extreme size, the first-named is made of silver to reduce the weight, and so is expensive to manufacture.

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Mr. G. L. Wood, M.A., of St. Peter's College, has been elected a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London, in recognition of his researches in Australian economic geography.

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Professor Perkins (Director of Agriculture), Dr. De Crespigny, P. S. Messent, J. Walter Brown, and P. W. Rice, and Mr. Wallace Sandford have been nominated as fellows of the Royal Society of South Australia.

News

4 APR 1924

**PREPARING INSULIN**

**Adelaide Manufacture to Cease**

**PRICE MAY BE HIGHER**

On May 1 the manufacture of insulin will cease at the Adelaide University. From that date the Commonwealth Laboratory will take over the task of supplying all Australia.

This announcement was made this morning by Professor Brailsford Robertson, who has been one of the foremost in promoting the introduction of insulin, the qualities of which are recognised all over the world by medical men.

Questioned on the statement made a few days ago that Dr. E. C. Dodds, chemical pathologist to the Middlesex Hospital, Great Britain, had discovered a new method of preparing insulin without the use of alcohol, Professor Robertson said that several methods had been proposed in America recently for preparing insulin without alcohol. The method was ascribed to Dr. Dodds.

"I have not had any personal experience of that method," said Professor Robertson. "Our method has been sufficiently satisfactory for our purposes. It would not be any good experimenting now as we are ceasing manufacture here at the end of this month. It was never our intention to continue manufacture definitely. We undertook it only because at the time of the introduction of insulin the Commonwealth laboratory was unable to supply the patients which became dependent on insulin supply from this laboratory. We were compelled to invest in equipment and assistants for the time being. Now we have to carry on another month to repay the actual cost of the outlay.

"This, we expect, will be accomplished at the end of this month. We will then resign in favor of the Commonwealth Laboratory, which will hereafter be the only manufacturers in Australia. After all a University is not a manufacturing enterprise, and we cannot undertake to go into business permanently. We did it only to help out of a tight corner.

"We began as investigators, not business people. For preparing insulin every laboratory must have a licence from the Insulin Committee of the Toronto University. The Commonwealth and the Adelaide University are the only ones in Australia with this licence."

"Do you think this move will make insulin dearer?"

"I think the price will be a little higher," Professor Robertson replied, "but that is not definitely settled yet."

**INSULIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY.**

**PREPARATION CEASES THIS MONTH.**

No insulin will be prepared at the Adelaide University after April 30. On the following day the Commonwealth Laboratory will undertake that duty for the whole of Australia, stated Professor Brailsford Robertson yesterday. He was one of the leaders of the movement for the use of insulin in Australia, the value of which in the treatment of diabetes is recognised by physicians all over the world. When asked whether the price of insulin would be raised by the Commonwealth, Professor Robertson said he believed the cost would be a little greater, but that had not yet been decided.

Professor Robertson was questioned concerning the feasibility of a claim made by Dr. C. E. Dodds (chemical pathologist at the Middlesex Hospital), that he had discovered a method of preparing insulin without the use of alcohol. He replied that several methods had been proposed in America, which did not require the use of alcohol, and Dr. Dodds was credited with being the discoverer of one of them. Professor Robertson said he had not had any experience of that method, because the one employed in Adelaide had been satisfactory. Experiments were useless, because the University was to cease the manufacture at the end of this month. There was no intention at any time to continue the manufacture of insulin indefinitely. It was undertaken by the Adelaide University only because at the time of the general introduction of the treatment the Commonwealth Laboratory was not in a position to supply the patients then dependent on the quantity prepared in Adelaide. The University had to obtain assistants and equipment suitable for temporary use, and in return would continue its work for a month to meet the outlay. At the end of that time the Commonwealth Laboratory would become the only manufacturer of insulin in Australia. The University was not a manufacturing enterprise, and could not enter business permanently. It did so only to help the Commonwealth out of a tight corner.

The University, concluded Professor Robertson, began the preparation of insulin as an investigation, and not as a business. Every manufacturer of the extract must have a license from the insulin committee at the Toronto University. The only licenses in Australia were held by the Commonwealth and the Adelaide University.

Register

5 APR 1924

**INSECT DANGERS.**

**Death of Pathologists.**

Interest in scientific circles in Adelaide has been taken in connection with the appeal of the Federal public health authorities for the immediate appointment of a highly trained plant pathologist to deal with the increasing number of diseases in various crops.

Up to the present in the central office of the Federal Quarantine Department in Melbourne, no specialist in plant pathology or entomology has been employed. Owing to this dearth of trained members on the staff of the Director-General of Public Health, whenever a question arises appertaining to these matters it is necessary to seek the opinions of the various State officials who act as chief quarantine officers for plants. While this course may have its advantages because of local knowledge, it has the disadvantage where anything approaching prompt action is required, and it is understood from a reliable source that the disabilities attachable to the present state of affairs is fully appreciated by the Director-General, who naturally being more conversant in matters of human quarantine, is handicapped through not having expert advisers on pathological matters by his side, or within easy reach. Reference was recently made to the scarcity of plant pathologists by a committee appointed to conduct an investigation into the bunchy top disease in bananas. This committee consisted of Professor R. D. Watt (representing New South Wales), Professor T. G. B. Osborn, of the Adelaide University (representing the Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry), and Professor E. J. Goddard (representing Queensland). According to Professor Osborn, who was interviewed by a representative of The Register on Friday, the whole banana industry of the Commonwealth is threatened with extinction through the devastating effects of this terrible scourge (bunchy top). At present the disease is limited to the lower part of Queensland—a less important part of the banana-growing area. An idea of checking it was to establish a buffer zone south of the Brisbane River, but shortly before the commission reached Brisbane the disease had broken out at Brickfield, north of the Brisbane River—a jump of 50 miles from the nearest known outbreak.