

A WINDY PLACE

DESCRIPTION UNFIT FOR PUBLICATION.

At a joint meeting of the geology, zoology, geography, and botany sections, a paper on the meteorology of Adelle Land was read by Mr. C. T. Madigan, M.A., B.Sc. He gave a general account of the weather at Adelle Land, Antarctica, in order to stimulate interest in the great amount of detail to be published in 1925, in the meteorological results of the Australasian expedition of 1911-14.

There were only twelve days of the two years in Adelle Land when the wind was under ten miles an hour. The average wind there was a gale on the Beaufort scale, which was said to break the twigs of trees. Their highest monthly wind average was 33.6 m.p.h., and the highest daily average 58.6 m.p.h.

A number of interesting lantern slides were shown illustrating the topography of the country and the life in Adelle Land under such terrible conditions.

A CHAIR OF ANTHROPOLOGY.

From "AUSTRAL":—One notes with pleasure the recommendations of the Science Congress for the foundation of a chair of Anthropology in the Commonwealth. Here is an opportunity to do honour to South Australia's greatest investigator of native habits and customs.

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INFANT MORTALITY

Breast Feeding Advocated

Discussing infant mortality at the Science Congress today, Dr. F. S. Hone (lecturer in clinical medicine and in preventive medicine at the Adelaide University) said that the present position was best reviewed by studying the mortality tables of the past 25 years.

The cause of the great drop in that year was probably due to several causes suddenly acting together—the increased emphasis on scientific feeding together with the cessation of the previous drought years which had favored diarrhoeal conditions.

The first essential for further progress was the division of infant mortality into natal mortality covering deaths in the first month, and post-natal mortality covering deaths from one to 12 months.

He reiterated the ideal of breast feeding of infants as long as possible, then of pure milk supply and of avoiding infection of food, especially by flies in the artificially fed.

SHORTAGE OF NURSES. Sir James Barrett said that he fully agreed with the main conclusions of the paper. Its value lay in focusing attention on the mortality of the first month of life, which was as yet unaffected.

There was a great shortage of trained nurses who had also received their midwifery training. There were not more than 100 in the whole of Australia when they came to Adelaide from O'Loughlin's mother were from the Adelaide Oval. Mrs. Cheek and Mr. Kett, the former chairman of the Adelaide Oval, were present during his stay.

THE SCIENCE CONGRESS AND DENTISTRY.

To the Editor.

Sir—We one and all heartily welcome the delegates now assembled in Adelaide to enlighten us as to what scientists are by research trying to do for humanity and even for the lower animals.

Dental decay has now become among the civilized races so almost universal as to be described by an eminent worker in dental research as "the curse of modern times." This term, although expressive, is inapt, since it is only the white races who are afflicted with dental caries, as we know it; the writer has repeatedly suggested that it be modified to read as "the curse of the white races," as the coloured races are almost immune.

Our universities and those of other countries are granting degrees in the science and art of dentistry, ranging in status from licentiate in dental surgery to master of dental surgery, with an intermediate degree of bachelor of dental surgery; there has recently been granted, it is said, by some English universities—with a very stiff examination, the degree of D.D.Sc. (Doctor of Dental Science).

It is true, alas! that the seats of learning where dental science is taught are more or less deficient in dental research, and do not teach preventive dentistry other than by suggestions for diet and hygiene; in other words, not by any method that foster dental caries.

The writer, from constant perusal of the best dental literature from United States, Canada, and Europe, is satisfied that preventive dentistry is now much as it was then, so far as effective prevention is concerned. What is wanted is public enlightenment by means of science congresses, as now assembled here.

"In addition . . . the preventive treatment of dental caries must be made one of the most important branches of the public health service. To institute and organize a department to deal efficiently with this branch alone would be a source of national economy.

There is no room for doubt that preventive dentistry is effective in from 75 per cent. to 85 per cent. of cases, and, when practised with proper instruction and experience, is of inestimable benefit to the masses, and a measure of relief to the fit, who in our large hospitals support the unfit with their protracted diseases, induced by tooth rot.

In reply to a question in the subsequent discussion, on the much mooted hypothesis of the circulation in dentine (tooth bone) of teeth, with characteristic modesty he declared "there is so much that I do not know, and so very little that I really do know, that it seems discouraging at times."

However, dental caries has in one of its conditions displayed a method by which decay is automatically arrested "ad modum naturae" so to speak. As caries, in that condition, is capable of effacing itself, independently of dental art, how easily effective it would be in prevention if the conditions were by art rendered suitable before any breach of the outer surface of the tooth had been established.

AUSTRALIAN STATES

Intersarsity Debate

ADELAIDE STUDENTS WIN

The second debate of the intersarsity series was held in the evening lecture theatre at the Queensland University (says "The Brisbane Telegraph"). The contestants on this occasion were the Melbourne and Adelaide Universities, the subject under discussion being "That it is in the best interests of Australia that the number of States be increased."

Professor Alcock was in the chair, and the adjudicators were Messrs. J. Kingsbury, A. C. V. Melbourne, and J. H. Watson.

The first proposition, he held, was not evident. The defects of the present system were considerable. He instance centralisation, remarking that 40 per cent. of the population of Australia gathered in the six capital cities.

FOR THE NEGATIVE

Mr. C. C. Crump, LL.B. (Adelaide) opened for the negative. He suggested that Sir Berriman had suggested means of re-union apart from the question of new States.

Mr. L. R. M. Ross, R.A. (Melbourne) dealt with the question of the union of new States from the economic standpoint. Australia had developed cities at the expense of the country.

IN CONCLUSION

Mr. D. P. McGuire (Adelaide) said that the claim of the leader of the affirmative to take a national viewpoint was inconsistent with the second speaker's remarks, which had been entirely round a small and very wealthy portion of the country.

The speaker was of the opinion that the present difficulties in the country could be overcome by the existing constitutional machinery.

CONSERVATORIUM C

Conservatorium of Music

Conservatorium of Music, Adelaide. The conservatorium is a fine building on the corner of North and North East streets. It was opened in 1912 and has since that time been the centre of musical life in Adelaide. The conservatorium is under the management of Mr. J. H. Crossley, who has done much to advance the cause of music in the city.

Could it reasonably be said that they had failed? Mr. J. H. Crossley (Melbourne), on the question of unification, said that a small area lost its sense of responsibility when administered by a central authority. The new State movement was founded on the retention of the Federal authorities. They merely asked for the decrease in the size and the increase in the numbers of the States.

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"ABOLISH EXAMINATIONS"

Professor's Suggestion

"It is high time that examinations were abolished, to make possible more truly educational work in both universities and schools," said Prof. W. E. Cooke, M.A. (Government Astronomer, Sydney), in a paper on "Examinations and Diplomas," read before the Education Section of the Advancement of Science Congress today.

Many subjects which had a high cultural value could find no place in our schools, he said. They were barred by the examination system. Attendance at tutorial and discussion classes, with certificates signed by the professor in charge certifying that the holder had taken a live interest and an active part in the class work and exercises, could be substituted for the present B.A. and B.Sc. degrees, and would probably be as highly prized by employers.

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