Section E.—Geography and History.
10-12.—Joint discussion by Sections C, D, E, and M on the Great Barrier Reef, Prince of Wales, Section E room.
12.15.—Mr. C. T. Madigan, "Antarctic meteorology," Prince of Wales, Section E room.
Section F.—Anthropology and Ethnology.
Rev. Jennison.—"A native statement of the origin of aboriginal intertribal divisions."
Mr. W. W. Thorpe.—(1) "Some New Guinea cultural influences found among the aborigines of Australia;" (2) "Heliolithic evidence in Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea, and traces of other superior cultures."
Section G.—Social and Statistical Science.
10 a.m.—Mr. J. R. Butchart, "The present London exchange position."
11 a.m.—Mr. G. Lightfoot, "Standardization and simplification."
12.—Sir G. H. Knibbs, "The world's population and its population problem."
All lantern lectures.
Section H.—Engineering and Architecture.
9.30 a.m.—Engineering excursions to Holden's Motor Body Builders, Limited; Osborne power station, Adelaide Electric Supply Company; the Torrens Gorge road and Millbrook Reservoir (per motor car).
Section I.—Sanitary Science and Hygiene.
10 a.m.—Mr. A. Gordon Gutteridge, "The relation of sewerage systems to the prevalence of typhoid and similar diseases."
11 a.m.—Mr. Lancelot E. Cooling, "The mosquito and its relation to practical sanitation under Australian conditions and to tropical colonization generally."
Section J.—Mental Science and Education.
Morning.
Professor A. D. Ross, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.E., F.R.A.S., F.Inst.P. (Professor of Mathematics, University of W.A.), "The teaching of mathematics in secondary schools."
J. A. Seitz, M.A. (Teachers' College, Melbourne), "The teaching of physics."
W. S. Sanderson, M.A. (Turramurra College, N.S.W.), "The teaching of mathematics."
M. P. Hansen, M.A., LL.B. (Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools, Victoria), "General course in science v. specialized courses in science."
A. G. Edquist (Supervisor of Nature Study, South Australia), "The teaching of science."
Section K.—Agriculture and Forestry.
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Papers by Mr. H. Hugh Corbin.—(a) "Forest species and scrub flora," (b) "The sheep and rabbit pests in drier areas."
"Indigenous and exotic conifer growth in Tasmania," Mr. L. G. Irby.
"The necessity for selection of specific types in the cultivation of timber trees," Mr. Francis Kay.
"Forestry in the mid-north of South Australia," Mr. A. C. Harris.
"A universal index to wood," Mr. E. H. F. Swain.
"The history and solution of the Fraser Island Eucalyptus regeneration problem," Mr. W. R. Petrie.
Section L.—Veterinary Science.
Morning free for meeting of Australian Veterinary Association.
Section M.—Botany.
9.30.—Sectional committee meets.
10.—Intersectional discussion (geology, zoology, geography) on "Barrier Reef problems."
11.45.—Mr. H. H. Lewcock, B.Sc., "A preliminary note on the bacteriosis of citrus."
12.—Mr. R. J. Noble, Ph. D., "Some observations on the establishment of plant quarantine measures in Australia."

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SCIENCE AND THE FARMER.

South Australia is sitting at the feet of Science this week, and gathering with becoming humility and gratitude the pearls of wisdom and learning as they fall from the lips of the oracle. Unfortunately, the capacity of the community to absorb the intellectual riches showered upon it is limited. The average reader of the summaries of the papers delivered at the Science Congress has not the time, even if he possessed the inclination, to mark, learn, and inwardly digest the whole of the matter placed before him. He is prone to select the titbits which please his fancy, or ponder on the subjects which appeal to the bent of his mind; and this process of discrimination is encouraged by the tendency of the congress to divide and subdivide itself into sections and subsections, each department concerned with developments in its own branch of research, but all linked together by a common passion for enquiry and a desire to place the discoveries of science at the service of mankind. Thus the farmer, who is commonly of a thoughtful habit of mind, is able readily to select from the mass of information the material which has been collated for his special benefit, and which he may apply to the practical business of agriculture. No longer is the man on the land suspicious of or indifferent to the scientist. The progressive culturist recognises his debt to the chemist, the plant pathologist, and the engineer, and is increasingly ready to utilize in his occupation the knowledge gained by research in the laboratory or experiment field.

Yesterday was certainly a field day for the agricultural experts. Included in a number of valuable addresses was an informing lecture on the water requirements of the wheat crop, by Dr. A. E. V. Richardson, the announcement of whose return to South Australia has been a source of intense gratification to the agricultural community. Dr. Richardson's appointment to the Waite College of Agriculture is an exemplification of the tendency, noted by Professor R. D. Watt, of "wealthy and public-spirited citizens to appreciate the importance of the endowment of agricultural research in Australia." At the moment, the pressing problem for Australia is to find markets for its primary products, apart from wheat and wool; and it is of small immediate comfort to the producer, unable to dispose of his foodstuffs profitably, to learn that the maximum population which the earth can support may be attained two or three generations hence! Professor Watt has no desire, like the fat boy in "Pickwick," to make our flesh creep by conjuring up visions of a famine-stricken world; but he draws the moral that "if we are to make assurance doubly sure we must see to it that those engaged in the production of food get a fair deal from other members of the community. We must encourage every effort designed to advance science generally and the various branches of agricultural science in particular." Science can assist the farmer literally to make two blades of wheat grow where one grew before. He may not, if he is progressive and industrious, need the advice to cultivate the soil thoroughly; but he cannot but be beneficially influenced by such a plea as that advanced by Professor J. W. Paterson for greater discernment in interpreting the varied benefits of fallowing. The agriculturist is to know, not only that he should do a certain thing, but why he should do it, in order that he may exercise due discrimination in his operations, and reap the full benefit of his enterprise. The hand that guides the plough feeds the world, but that hand may in turn be guided by the knowledge which science makes available in ever-increasing abundance.

THE ABORIGINES.

As no adequate excuse could be pleaded for setting aside the request of the Science Congress for the creation of a Chair of Anthropology in the Commonwealth, it may be assumed that the Federal Government will lose no more time in adopting the proposal. It would be highly discreditable to Australia if we refrained from actively forwarding the systematic study of the aboriginal races in the Pacific, and doing our best to make the record of that investigation complete. "The highest study of mankind is man." Anthropology is a science which is not only intensely interesting, but stimulating to the practice of the humanities." Discoveries and theories relating to the early history of mankind concur in the doctrine of a common origin, and the causes of progression in some instances, and of stagnancy or degeneration in others, provide a wide field of protracted enquiry from many aspects. It is regrettable that the numerous and remarkably varied tribes of aborigines in Australia were not the subject long ago of organized and learned research. Like its flora and fauna, the ancient inhabitants of Australia are isolated and peculiar, separated by a wide remove from the Papuans, the Malays, and the negroes. This isolation—as Mr. A. W. Jose and others have emphasized—is not only racial; their way of life also is unique. "Nothing is more common or condemnable, among writers on Australia, than the careless adoption of ill-informed and unobservant descriptions of the 'blackfellow' given by early white settlers. Giv a community cut off from the world while in the hunter stage of civilization and pent in a country none of whose animals lend themselves to domestication, it is hardly possible to conceive a way of living more skilfully and intelligently adapted to the environment than is that of the native Australian uninfluenced by the white invasion."

In Europe and America the relatively scanty relics of the Stone Ages are most carefully collected and examined, and upon them is sought to be erected the framework of a right understanding and appreciation of the occupants of those continents in those far-distant times. Science in Australia is in a vastly better position for research work of this nature, because in the interior of this island continent hundreds of miles from the haunts of civilization, are tribes of sturdy bush natives, which still practise the customs of those ages, and exhibit the physical and mental traits of their peoples. Immense areas in the realm of anthropology await earnest and patient exploitation, and the work should be proceeded with while the aborigines are with us. It may be, indeed, that such an undertaking would materially assist in the successful application of sensible and humane measures to ensure their survival and upliftment—a most desirable end to keep in sight. The case for a Chair of Anthropology has been greatly reinforced by the acceptance of the Mandate over the former German territory in New Guinea, and the obligations which we owe to Papua. Professor Elliot Smith rightly remarks that the study of the natives is important not only from an academic viewpoint, but it is also closely associated with future political action in Australia, especially in connection with the mandated regions. We owe it both to ourselves and to the weak and backward races which we have so largely displaced, that this Chair shall be established.