

Entertainment of Visitors

Arrangements for the series will be made by the committee of the Adelaide University Men's Union...

The visitors will also be shown over a brewery and a winery, and will probably make a trip on a ketch.

A meeting of the Council of the Australian Universities Dealing Societies will be held on August 27.

Teams already selected are as follows: Melbourne—Messrs. K. T. Kelly, R. W. W. Willmot, B. A. Santamaría, and R. Benjamin (emergency).

Queensland—Messrs. Foley (third-year student), Finnegan (second year honors mathematics), Curlewis (law student and a B.A., who has debated here previously), and Miss Hanger, the emergency who is a third year dentistry student.

The six finalists, from whom the Adelaide team will be chosen, spoke at a special meeting of the Adelaide University men's union last night.

The three adjudicators, Messrs. J. F. Brazel, C. C. Crump, and Geoffrey Harry, met in the union reading room late last night to discuss which will be submitted to the committee of the union, and will be announced tomorrow.

News 5-8-35 EXAMINATION ENGLISH

Sir—Can anything be done by 'The News' in a campaign to make the syllabus for English in the leaving examination of more practical value to boys with their way to make in the world? At present it seems to be mainly a dabbling in 'literature' intensively swotted or stewed from burdensome textbooks...

AN ADELAIDE FATHER.

News 7-3-35 INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH

Sir—'An Adelaide Father' has launched in the columns of 'The News' an attack on the syllabus for leaving examination English and advocates that it be framed on more practical lines. As English is also a compulsory subject for the intermediate certificate, on which many youths rely in seeking employment, does not the syllabus require an overhaul? Why, for example, should boys and girls of 14 to 16 years, before the vast majority of them have acquired the ability to express themselves fluently in straightforward modern English prose, be forced to submit to a gruelling, long-drawn-out analysis in detail of an Elizabethan play, intended 350 years ago for acting, not reading? It is possible for youngsters to learn more Shakespearian wit and wisdom from a good book of familiar quotations than by an intensive crum of one only of his many plays. Much as we may deplore the fact, Shakespeare today is cavorted to most theatregoers, notwithstanding that in South Australia for years past thousands of boys and girls have had to 'do' a Shakespearian play in the intermediate leaving examinations. As a result of all this tremendous scholastic gaud, this examination forcing, we have an population that seems not to care two hoots for Shakespeare. I am afraid, also, that compelling youths to cram so much poetry for these exams, has like unsatisfactory result—a distaste for it in after life.

Prospect. BUSINESS MAN.

Sir—Your correspondent 'Adelaide Father' (Toorak) appears to be perturbed as to his son's lack of ability either to spell correctly or to write intelligent English. He is not alone in his worries, as judging by the exampners' comments in the 1935 University syllabus, they, too, bewail the same sad state of affairs. Listen to their tale of woe:—

'Incorrect spelling is too frequent; candidates have not yet learned to write simply and directly; errors in spelling marred a large percentage of the papers.'

Even the comments of the examiner in commercial work—surely the most broadening subjects any student could attract attention to—this same fault. Here is what he says:— 'Many failed because they lacked intelligence and WERE WEAK IN ENGLISH.'

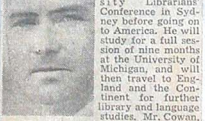
He also quotes definite spelling errors, all in words which should be part of any intermediate student's everyday vocabulary. Of course, secondary schools have no time to teach spelling any more than they have time or opportunity to teach simple arithmetic—'curritulo' and 'isms' that groundwork has to go by the board, and parents simply have to stand by and foot the bills. Spelling and arithmetic (particularly mental arithmetic) should be taught every day in both upper and lower schools, and children would reap the advantage of both when they took on higher subjects.

Unley. MRS. VIRGINIA.

Sir—The letter from 'Father Toorak' is timely, and one hopes that the call from the wise man of the East will not be overlooked, and that a movement to reform the present rather terrible 'leaving English' will be instituted. One hesitates to say that the book set are not the best, but they are kind, but they are in some instances quite unkind for students of 15 to 16 years of age, and one cannot blame children for poor spelling after 12 months of Milton in its original form. Is it not high time that Australian writers and poets were given some place in the United States syllabus in 1935—and surely children could appreciate more quickly someone nearer their own time and thought. What about Prof. Murdoch's essays? What about 'Unscientific Essays' by Prof. Wood Jones? There are also 3000 Australian novels and good Australian history—we have them instead of Milton and Shakespeare.

Prospect. ESMERALDA.

The librarian at the Adelaide University (Mr. W. A. Cowan) will leave for the United States in the Balnrad on Saturday. He will study library methods at the University of Michigan under the terms of the Carnegie Grant. Mr. Cowan will attend the University Librarians' conference in Sydney before going to America. He will study for a full session of nine months at the University of Michigan, and will then travel to England and the Continent for further library and language studies. Mr. Cowan, who graduated Master of Arts of the University of London, has been librarian of the Adelaide University for nearly two years. In his absence Prof. J. A. Fitzherbert, professor of classics at the University, will be honorary librarian. Mr. Cowan will return to Adelaide in September of next year.



Mr. W. A. Cowan



Mr. W. A. Cowan

Mr. W. A. Cowan, the librarian at the University of Adelaide, will leave for Sydney in the Balnrad on Saturday on his way to America, where, under the terms of the Carnegie Grant, he will study library methods. In Sydney, Mr. Cowan will attend a conference of University Librarians. He will join the Mariposa on August 21 for America. After staying for nine months at the University of Michigan, Mr. Cowan will go to Great Britain and the Continent. Mr. Cowan obtained his M.A. degree at Wellington (N.Z.) University with first class honors in Latin and French in 1929. He was then granted a post-graduate scholarship and went to England, where he studied at the London University. He took his B.A. degrees with honors, obtaining first-class in classics. He also attended several vacation courses at the University of Grenoble, France. It is nearly two years since Mr. Cowan began his duties at the Adelaide University.

Public Administration Annual Conference

The fifth annual conference of the Institute of Public Administration, which will be held in Adelaide on Wednesday, September 11, will be attended by visitors from New South Wales and Victoria, and members of the Commonwealth, State, municipal and government and tramway services. The agenda paper is now being finalised by the group secretary (Mr. C. G. Lewis).

The Acting Premier (Sir George Ritchie) has been invited to open the conference, which will be held at the Chamber of Manufactures Building, Pirie street, and invitations have been sent to the New South Wales and Victorian regional groups to send representatives. Various phases of administrative work will be discussed.

An address will be delivered in the morning by Professor J. A. Prescott, of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, and the Crown Solicitor (Mr. A. J. Hannan) has been asked to speak at the afternoon session. A civic reception by the Lord Mayor (Mr. Cain) at noon will be preceded by the seventh annual meeting of the Institute, when alterations to the constitution will be made. The principal of these will probably be that the present status of members, associate members, and associates will be altered to fellows, members, and associates respectively.

About 100 members are expected to attend the annual dinner to be held at the Pleadacity in the evening. The chairman of the council (Mr. H. M. Rolland, Commonwealth Works Director for South Australia) will preside.

SIR JOHN MACFARLAND LEAVES £70,000 ESTATE

Victorian Presbyterian Bodies To Benefit

MELBOURNE, August 7.

Details of the £70,000 estate of the late Sir John MacFarland, Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, were announced today. It is estimated that the Victorian Presbyterian organisations will receive about £57,000, after probate and other duties have been paid.

The estate consists solely of personal estate in England and Australia. The Trustee Executor and Agency Company, Ltd., is dealing with the will which is dated October 14, 1932, and with the codicil, dated December 3, 1934. Sir John MacFarland died on July 22.

Subject to personal legacies totalling £2,000, several personal gifts, and also a bequest of his library to Ormond College for the use of the students, the residue of the estate is divisible into 56 parts. Forty-six of these are payable to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trust Corporation. Eighteen parts will go to Ormond College for educational purposes, subject to a life interest to two of his sisters and to a niece. Bequests were also made to the Lord Mayor's fund, the University of Melbourne for educational purposes, and to a number of Presbyterian schools.

Choosing A Chancellor

The council of the University of Melbourne will soon have to choose a chancellor in succession to the late Sir John Macfarland. The position has changed somewhat since that day of the academic world first wore the gold-embroidered chancellor's gown. The appointment of a vice-chancellor as an executive head has removed administration from the sphere of the chancellor, whose functions will now be to represent the University and act as a trustee upon public occasions, and generally to confer the prestige of his eminence upon it.

It is generally supposed that the present deputy-chancellor (Sir James Barrett) will be elected, but that may not necessarily be so. It was hoped in some quarters that Sir John Latham, one of the University's most distinguished sons, would be a candidate, but apparently he is not seeking the honor.

The election, meanwhile, has been deferred while the University considers precisely the qualities which it will require of its new head.