

Continued

ing the children the Master's precept, "Love thy neighbour as thyself," could be imparted by those means he would gladly have the Bible read in State schools. (Applause.) Portions of the works of Marcus Aurelius and others were permitted to be read, and he did not see why portions of the Bible for the purpose indicated might not also be read. He recognised to the full the influence that the Bible had had upon our race.

Last of all he had to speak of the influence of the teacher. Let each place before himself a high ideal of the nobility of the profession in which he was engaged. The best teacher of all raised as high as he could his love of duty, justice, and truth. Dr. Temple, on leaving Harrow, said he received the highest testimonial he could ever receive. It was from a Harrow schoolboy, who, writing to his parents, said, "Temple is a beast—(laughter)—but he is a just beast." (Applause and loud laughter.) Duty, truth, and justice should be cultivated, and if what he had said was true, then the best teacher of all was he who possessed the deepest religious sense. He meant that deep underlying religious sense of love for all that was good and honourable. Some years ago he read some admirable sentiments in a book called "The Day Dreams of a Schoolmaster," and he believed he never met more ennobling words in his life. After some years had passed a friend copied them out and sent them to him, stating that perhaps they might do him good. With their permission he would read them, because they put into words more beautiful than any he could find the ideas he possessed, and enforced the lesson better than he could enforce it by any words of his own. The extract read:—

"And, O brother, remember evermore the exceeding dignity of our calling. It is not the holiest of all callings, but it runs near and parallel to the holiest. The lawyer's wits are sharpened, and his moral sense not seldom blunted by a lifelong familiarity with ignorance, chicanery, and crime. The physician in the exercise of a more beneficent craft is saddened continually by the spectacle of human weakness and human pain. We have to deal with unpolluted natures. A noble calling; but a perilous. We are dressers in a moral and intellectual vineyard. We are under shepherds of the Lord's little ones; and our business it is to lead them into the green pastures by the side of refreshing streams. Let us into our linguistic lessons introduce cunningly and imperceptibly all kinds of amusing stories; stories of the real kings of earth that have reigned in secret, crownless and unsuspected; leaving the vain shadow of power to gilded toy-kings and make-believe statesmen; of the angels that have walked the earth in the guise of holy men and holier women; of the seraph singers, whose music will be echoing for ever; of the cherubim of power, that with the mighty mind of conviction and enthusiasm have winnowed the

air of pestilence and superstition. Yes, friend, throw a higher poetry than all this into your linguistic work--the poetry of pure and holy motive. Then, in the coming days, when you are fast asleep under the green grass, they will not speak lightly of you over their fruit and

wine, mimicking your accent and retailing dull, insipid boy pleasantries. Enlightened by the experience of fatherhood, they will see with a clear remembrance your firmness in dealing with their intellectual weaknesses. And, calling to mind the old schoolroom, they will think, not without sadness: 'Ah, it was good for us to be there; for, unknown to us, were made therein three tabernacles--one for us, one for our master, and one for Him, the friend of all children and the Master of all masters.' Ah, believe me, brother, where two or three children are met together, unless He who is the spirit of gentleness be in the midst, our Latin is but sounding brass and our Greek a tinkling cymbal."

ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

Register BOARD. 2/8/96
THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

PROFESSOR WATSON REFUSES A POSITION.

At the meeting of the Board on Friday there were present—His Worship the Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. C. Tucker, in the chair, Drs. Curtis, Rogers, and Hill, the Mayor of Port Adelaide, Mr. C. R. Morris, Messrs. C. Lyons, W. H. Wadey, A. Spence, and W. G. Coombs, Mesdames Nicholls, Parkin, Cullen, and Edwards.

Mr. C. R. Hodge, Registrar of the University, wrote as follows:—"August 13. Sir—Referring to my letter of the 3rd inst., I now have the honour, by direction, to inform you that the adjourned meeting of the Council was held yesterday afternoon, when it was unanimously resolved to suggest for the consideration of the Hospital Board that, with a view of arriving at a satisfactory arrangement, a conference should take place between the Council and the Board. I have the honour, therefore, to respectfully request that if this course commends itself to your Board a conference be held as soon as possible."

The CHAIRMAN thought the Board should comply with the request, because it was desirable that the question should be settled. There was no doubt that the conference would be of mutual benefit.

Dr. CURTIS moved—"That the request be complied with."

Dr. ROGERS seconded, and hoped that it would bring the matter to a conclusion. They should have a good deal of sympathy with the University, who were acting as mediators between two parties.

Mr. LYONS was glad that they were going to have a conference of the whole Board, because of the dreadful failure of the meeting of committees. The University would do all in their power to preserve the strength and power of the Medical School, but the Board's anxiety in the matter did not seem to have been appreciated.

Carried. It was resolved to have the conference on Friday evening next, at 7 o'clock.

The following letter was read from Professor Watson:—"Sir—In answer to your esteemed favour of 8th inst., let me explain that when Dr. Rogers suggested to me that in the interests of the Medical School I should take a position on the acting Honorary Staff, I stated that I could not see my way to do so, but added 'that if the Board appreciated my past endeavours in the interests of the institution a revival in my favour of the obsolete title of the "Hon. Consulting Surgeon," as held by the late Dr. Mayo, would be a sufficient mark of approbation.' Unfortunately it never for one second entered my head that the acceptance of such a distinction would meet with the most marked disapproval of my professional brethren. But such unfortunately being the case I can only decline an honour which, however unmerited, would under happier conditions have been gratefully accepted.—I remain, &c., A. WATSON."

Dr. ROGERS said the introduction of his name in the letter called for some slight explanation. He had seen Professor Watson, not in any official capacity, but purely as a private individual, because he thought if he accepted the position it would solve the deadlock which had existed for so long between the University and the Board. He was a neutral party, and he thought his acceptance of the position could not give offence to any one whatever. Before he moved in the matter he thought it necessary to approach the Professor to see whether he would accept the offer if made by the Board.

Mr. LYONS thought it was only right that he should explain that it was not at his own seeking that he played the part he did in the matter. Professor Watson had written and asked that his name should be put forward in the manner at the last meeting, and that he should be granted the position he was asked to accept, and he (the speaker) had a letter from the Secretary to him in which the request was made, and asking him to do it for him. He had carried the letter in his pocket for fourteen days, and then he was urged again to take the matter up; and he asked Dr. Rogers if he would second such a proposition if brought before the Board. The doctor readily consented, and the result was that the motion was carried unanimously. That explanation was necessary, because in reply to an interjection made by Mr. Coombs he had said that there was no need to be uneasy about Professor Watson accepting the position. They did not know; human flesh was weak to discern the difficulties likely to arise, and they did not anticipate the opposition that had been shown in the matter by the South Australian Branch of the British Medical Association; but an edict had gone forth, the power and terror of which had, perhaps, never been equalled since the days of Nehemiah. This good and unassuming man was commanded to attend before the tribunal of the South Australian Branch of the British Medical Association to show cause or give reasons to satisfy them why he dared exercise his own franchise or liberty and offer to become a member of the staff if elected. He was proud to think that the University played no part in endorsing that, and it was with great satisfaction that he believed that because it would help the matter very much towards success at the Conference. That the man should be socially spurned by individual members of the British Medical Association because he had taken the action he did was a matter that would cause regret throughout the whole colony, and would not find endorsement even from the supporters of the Association, because it meant if he accepted the position under the circumstances he was to be practically spurned by them and ostracised by the medical profession, and it was a great pity such action was taken.

The CHAIRMAN thought he was only expressing the feelings of the other members of the Board in saying that they deeply deplored and regretted that the Professor should have found it necessary to refuse their request.

Mr. W. H. WADEY said they all very much regretted the circumstances in which Professor Watson was placed, and that he was unable to accept the appointment. It would have been a great boon to the Hospital and to the community if the Professor had not been prevented from accepting the position, which was a well-deserved honour to him. It was through no fault of his own that Professor Watson could not accept it.

Watson could not accept it. There had been a threat by the medical profession that he would be—he would not say boycotted—but ignored—(laughter)—which meant banishment, and ostracised by them. He was glad to hear that the University had had nothing to do with influencing the Professor in the matter, and he still hoped that the authorities of the University, of which the Professor was a servant, would see their way clear, notwithstanding the vindictive feeling and action of the medical profession, to aid them in securing the services of the Professor as Honorary Surgeon. Some pressure might be brought to bear through them with a view to inducing the Professor to accept the position. He had his misgivings as to the medical profession when the appointment was made, and was not at all surprised at the stand they had taken. He believed the University would not show the same vindictive spirit. He trusted that the conference they proposed holding shortly would find a way to secure the services of so able a gentleman as Professor Watson.

The letter was received with regret.

Formal Cabinet approval of the appointments recommended at the last meeting of the Board to the Honorary Staff was received.

Mr. Leak, City Missionary, wrote, asking if Hospital orders could be used after the expiry of the twelve months for which they were issued.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that years ago the orders could be used at any time, but that two or three years ago a resolution was passed by the Board that they should be only available for the current year of issue. After discussion the Secretary was instructed to bring up a report on the matter at the next meeting.

The Medical Superintendent's report for the two weeks ended August 20 was as follows:—Patients admitted, 100; discharged, 97; died, 6; now in Hospital, 217; outpatients treated 641, of whom 126 were new. Causes of Deaths.—Gastro enteritis, phthisis, morbis cordis, peritonitis (2), abdominal carcinoma. Twelve cases of typhoid fever in the institution.