

## South Australia.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

### THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

CONSIDERABLE changes have taken place recently. A great loss has been sustained by the sudden death early this year of the Angas professor of chemistry, Dr. E. H. Rennie. He, with Sir William Bragg, Professor Archibald Watson, and Dr. (later Sir) E. C. Stirling, formed in the year 1885 the advance guard of the original Faculty of Medicine. Contributions to anthropology and investigations of the fauna of Australia, and more especially of the marsupials, by Professor F. Wood Jones, F.R.S., have reflected immense prestige upon the University of Adelaide, but after spending seven years among us he has been attracted to Honolulu by the authorities of the Rockefeller Institute; there one special subject for investigation will be the actual effects so far, and the probable results in the future, of that intimate blending of so many races—Malayo-Polynesian, Iberian, Chinese, Japanese, and Teuton—which has been encouraged by the United States Government in the Hawaiian Archipelago. Professor Brailsford Robertson has been "seconded" for one year at least, and lent to the Commonwealth Council of Science and Industrial Research in order to pursue his investigations on animal nutrition; fortunately his coadjutor, Dr. Hicks, the recently appointed professor of human physiology, is at hand to carry on the teaching. The vacant chair of anatomy has been widely advertised, and presumably the same course will be adopted with regard to the chair of chemistry. The jubilee of the University was celebrated last year: the progress made in fifty years in every direction is marvellous, though original research work is mainly confined to the Waite Institute of Agriculture; at the Adelaide Hospital, too, there have been rapid advances. Buildings recently erected now increase the accommodation for patients to 500 beds, exclusive of 220 devoted to infectious and incurable cases; in addition, the special obstetrico-gynaecological department will in all probability shortly be commenced. Meanwhile more suitable housing has been provided for the resident medical officers, who now number over twenty, as compared with two only some forty years ago.

### THE BRANCH.

For a dozen years or so the Branch (South Australian) has been accommodated in the buildings originally acquired by members of the profession, under the title of the "British Medical Hall Co., Ltd." These buildings were to be transferred to the Branch so soon as satisfactory incorporation could be attained, but this process involved some legal difficulties. Now the premises have been sold, and the directors of the company have committed themselves to the purchase of a block of land on North Terrace, facing the University. Upon this block it is proposed to erect a building of several stories; it is to be made to pay for itself by the leasing of suites of rooms for members of the medical and dental professions. It is a bold enterprise for a small medical community such as ours to venture upon, but if not immediately remunerative it will constitute a valuable gift to the next generation. The Branch has been presided over recently by Dr. de Crespigny, who has just returned from a holiday in Europe, and by Dr. H. H. E. Russell. The Lister Orator for 1926 was Professor Wood Jones, who gave one of those characteristic addresses which have stamped him as a remarkable speaker and thinker.

### IRREGULAR PRACTICE.

The troubles met with in the old country have taken root here also. The newly formed Association of Botanic Medical and Naturopathic Practitioners, whose diploma is spread out before me, bases its claim for recognition upon a still unrepealed Act of Henry VIII. A deputation waited upon the Chief Secretary, asking for legislation to enable them to be registered as a body entitled to practise their peculiar arts, to give certificates of health, and, what is still more necessary, certificates of the cause of death. Fortunately the matter was referred to the Medical Board

for its opinion, and its report apparently satisfied the Labour Government that it would not be wise to obey the deputation's behest. The Crown law officers too have received instructions to enforce the provisions of the Medical Act as regards unqualified persons assuming the title of doctor. Curious divergence of opinion as to the reading of the Act has been evinced by the judges of first instance before whom the offenders have been brought, but doubts have been speedily cleared up on the Crown appealing to the Supreme Court.

## New Zealand.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

### WELLINGTON HOSPITAL.

DR. D. M. WILSON has written a short history of the Wellington Hospital, which is now being enlarged at a cost of £140,000. In 1841 the New Zealand Land Company had the responsibility of treating the sick in the new colony, but it was apparent that soon the colonists themselves must assume this responsibility. Governor Grey arrived in 1845, and set about the task of enforcing law and order. The settlement at Wellington lived in fear of Maori uprisings and there had been occasional skirmishes in the vicinity, and Governor Grey realized that if there were to be peace between European and Maori each must soon learn to understand the other. He proposed, therefore, to use a hospital as a colonizing agency, and in a dispatch to Lord Grey, Colonial Minister in London, Governor Grey declared his intention of establishing a hospital where Maori and European might be treated together and a bond of friendship formed between the two races. The statesmen had more foresight than the general public, for there was no public demand for a hospital. Indeed, a prominent colonist, Mr. Brady, wrote to the *New Zealand Journal* in London, stating that the climate of Wellington was so healthy that "the doctors are compelled to turn either farmers or publicans, as they have nothing to do but to attend upon lying-in women."

A report of the work of the hospital sent by the Governor to the State Department in London on March 6th, 1848, shows that already the hospital had done much "to gain the attachment and promote the civilization of the natives." The hospital was provided with a steam-bath room and a sweating room, and a hot-water bath, to which the patients were introduced upon first admission. As the natives were admitted from their pas, where sanitary arrangements were conspicuous by their absence, the ablution facilities at the hospital were not without significance for them. The hospital had many vicissitudes, including damage by an earthquake in 1848, with intermittent tremors extending over a period of four days, which partially destroyed the building. The first and somewhat primitive hospital in Wellington is, however, worthy of remembrance as a noteworthy civilizing agency which played a great part in cementing two races in harmony and goodwill. The work done in the hospital was also noteworthy. For instance, a Maori chief of high rank was operated upon by Dr. Fitzgerald for the removal of a large tumour between the shoulders, and this patient was anaesthetized with sulphuric ether. When it is remembered that this anaesthetic was not announced to the world until November, 1845, in an American medical journal, that Syme did not use it until 1847, and that New Zealand was at the ends of the earth, it says much for Dr. Fitzgerald and his unnamed colleague that a Maori thus early received the benefit of the new discovery. In 1849 Earl Grey presented to the Colonial Hospital of Wellington a large engraving of Her Majesty Queen Victoria so that the natives might see the great white chieftainess to whom they gave their splendid allegiance and devotion, and not less to her successors.

### PHYSIQUE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

A physical survey of 20,000 New Zealand school children has been completed, and compares favourably with a similar survey undertaken in 1913. The conclusions may be summarized thus: (1) New Zealand school children show