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NEWS

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THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN THE PRESENT DAY

The following address was given by Sir Charles Morris, Vice Chancellor of the University of Leeds and Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals in the United Kingdom, in the A.B.C. Guest of Honour broadcast on 15th August, 1954.

One of the most striking things to me at the present time is the very great interest which peoples and governments are taking in universities. I have spent nearly all my life in universities, and there was nothing like it when I was a young man, at any rate in the United Kingdom. Universities went their own way, quietly enough, supported a little by governments and other public authorities, quite a lot by private benefactors many of whom lived a very long time ago, but primarily supporting themselves as often as not on the fees paid by a comparatively small number of students.

Nowadays public opinion, as well as statesmen, the professions and industry, keep a close eye on the universities and are generally more than willing to help them, andas is natural and right in a free country-to give them advice. Students are coming forward with enthusiasm and in great numbers, and their parents are encouraging and helping them to do so; governments are recognising that any civilised country which wishes to play its proper part in the world cannot afford not to have an adequate number of good universities, and that in these days nobody but governments have the resources necessary to support them. They are also freely accepting—and this is both important and remarkable-that universities, if they are really to be universities and are to do all that is expected of them, must have a very high degree indeed of independence and autonomy. Governments are granting this, not because of sentimentalism or of affection for the traditions of the past, but for very good and strong reasons arising out of the needs of the present and the requirements of the future.

Behind the governments, public opinion is to say the least of it raising no objection to this line of policy. A very large number of people indeed, in all countries and in all sections of the community, are taking the keenest and warmest interest in students and the immense variety of student activities, and indeed in every aspect of the life and work of the universities. All this makes the present a very exciting and satisfying time for those of us who belong to the university world.

I cannot help, as a university man, sometimes rubbing

my eyes in surprise and wonder, that these homes of learning and education, which have lived in quiet backwaters for so long, should now find themselves so much in the limelight and so much the objects of public esteem and generous affection. I cannot even help wondering whether this happy situation will last; though naturally I feel strongly myself, again speaking as a university man, that it is very much in the interest of humanity that it should last. In any case I often ask myself, as very many people in the university world are asking themselves, why it is that things are as they are, and what we ought to be doing to make them remain so.

It seems to me that there are three main reasons, all of them more or less clearly present in the minds of a very large number of thoughtful people who do not necessarily know very much in any detail of what the universities are actually doing. The first and most obvious is that it is generally believed, more emphatically perhaps than ever before, that knowledge is power-and especially that the advance of knowledge means power; or, to put it another way, keeping well ahead in the race for new knowledge is absolutely necessary for security. It has more and more come into the consciousness of the man in the street that the place of a country in the world, and even its prospects of survival, depend in very great measure upon the balance of scientific power. The country, or the group of countries, which are in the strongest position for pressing on with the advance of new knowledge, and for applying that knowledge as need arises, are also in the strongest position for winning for themselves peace and security.

Those who do the planning in these matters must give their minds of course not only to the next few years but also to the distant future; to the peace and happiness not only of themselves, but of their children and grandchildren, and even to the generations after them. This means that there must be the keenest care, not only for quick and ingenious applications of knowledge already acquired, but for the continuous and steady building up of a capital stock of basic and fundamental knowledge which will be there to be drawn upon, for perhaps urgent application

to the needs of the moment, when it is required. For this it is necessary to ensure the continuance, generation after generation, of the necessary number of scholars and scientists who have the necessary skills and the necessary selfdedication to carry forward the work-often obscure and apparently unrewarding-of advancing our fundamental knowledge of physical nature and of human nature. This is very difficult to plan for, in any direct way. The wind of original discovery bloweth where it listeth; and the imagination and devotion on which it depends flourish only in freedom. But I believe that public opinion widely recognises that the universities know how to do this, and that they alone can do it. They have shown that they know how to maintain a community of scholars and scientific enquirers who will encourage, inspire and comfort one another, in hard and unfavourable times as well as in prosperous ones, in the steady work of conserving old knowledge and of acquiring new. The generous recognition that the universities know how to do this, and have on the whole done it well and truly in recent generations, has played no small part in building up the esteem and affection which they are now enjoying in the community at large.

The second reason is that after two world wars our generation has a keen sense of responsibility for the young. In war a great deal of the burden has been borne by the young; and in fighting the wars we meant to make peace and happiness safe for our children, and for their children after them. We know from bitter experience that in all the future peace, and security of all the things we care for, are going to be most difficult to maintain. In our time the world has been a very changing world, and we know that changes will not cease with us. The young of today, when they reach the prime of life, will have to manage a world which is unknown and unpredictable to us today. . Inevitably we feel that the least we can do for them is to secure for them a really good education, the best that they are willing to make the effort to achieve and that nature has fitted them for. An education which will not only give them the necessary practised skills and suppleness of mind to face an unknown future, but also will assist them to build up the necessary imagination, courage, persistence, and right sense of values. This is of course asking a great deal of education; and I know that it has recently been the fashion, at any rate in England, to look to the schools and universities to do the whole job, as if the home, the churches and other social influences had little or no responsibility in the matter at all. I know too that, at any rate in England, there have been many complaints that, while greater and greater wonders have been achieved in the training of high technical skills, our education has fallen much short of perfection on the side of the development of character, personality and sound judgment in human affairs. But for all that, I believe myself that it is very widely recognised that the universities are great homes of education, and that if the problems of educating the young to face the modern world are to be solved they will be largely solved by the universities. They are known to have a way of living in which students have a great deal of freedom and very much enjoy some of the

best years of their lives. It is difficult with young men and young women of undergraduate age to strike the right balance between giving the help and instruction which age and experience make possible and encouraging them to fend for themselves and make their own discoveries—and of course their own mistakes. But the universities are credited with trying very hard to strike this balance and to build up the right way of life and learning for the young; and they are credited too, I believe, with a great deal of traditional knowledge and experience to help them to do this.

My third reason I find most difficult to be clear about in my own mind. It seems to me that everybody feels that the present age is a time of great perplexity; not, I think, apathy or discouragement but genuine perplexity. We all feel that we have acquired more new knowledge about physical nature than about human nature; about things than about men and women; about how to make life prosperous and convenient rather than how to make it happy and satisfying. It has been a dream now for at least three centuries that it ought to be possible to apply the wonderful methods of science to solve the problems of living-of living together happily in villages and cities, in whole nations, and in the great human community of all the nations. But so far it seems to remain a dream. Our great scholars and scientific enquirers seem to discover more and more about special points, but we seem to advance no further towards putting all these brilliantly lighted high spots together into one grand body of knowledge, a body of faith, by which to improve our human living. And it seems hardly possible that any one man, however learned, however brilliant, is going to do this for us, alone and unaided. The day is passed when all the fields of know-ledge are within the compass of one great scholar. It is only within a community of great scholars and brilliant enquirers that there is any hope that the contradictions which trouble the thoughtful man today will be ironed out, and that we shall begin to find a comprehensive and unified insight into the whole mysterious world in which we live and the even more mysterious human beings, with emotions and wills as well as intellects, who live in it. As I said, I do not think our perplexity means discouragement, or that it springs from weakness. It springs from strength; and we shall only find the way out of our temporary ill-health by more of the same medicine. I believe it is widely felt that it is in the common life of learned men and gifted enquirers within universities, and in the common life of the genuinely intellectually minded of the different generations, of the old and the young living together and working together in the pursuit of truth, that the way out of our perplexities will be found. And I believe this widely held belief is a true one.

I have given three reasons why the universities occupy a place in the affection and esteem of the peoples today which they have perhaps never held before. And naturally —I speak again as a university man—I think the world is a better and a happier place, even if also it is a more puzzling place, that it should be so.

COUNCIL AND THE BOARD OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Cost of House Building

The Council's Advisers on Buildings and Grounds have drawn attention to a sharp rise in recent months in the tender prices received for the building of University dwellings. The Advisers have suggested certain amendments to the form of contract used but they and the Council have agreed that it would be undesirable and uneconomic to reduce the standard of houses built by the University.

Conferring of Degrees

The Board and the Council are discussing the arrangements to be made for the conferring of degrees. Many of the University's graduands will move on after completing their courses to appointments in other parts of Australia or abroad and it would seem to be necessary either to confer a substantial number of degrees in absentia or to arrange a number of conferring ceremonies during the year.

Research Fellows and Degrees

Continued consultation between the Faculties and the Board has produced yet another change in the conditions under which Research Fellows may become candidates for the Ph.D. degree. They will now be at liberty to seek permission, after they have held their Research Fellowships for two years, to submit theses for the Ph.D. They will not be required to be formally enrolled, and the work on which they base their candidatures will not be supervised otherwise than through the general responsibility of the appropriate Head of Department.

Retention of M.A.

There has been some discussion between the Board and the Faculties about the possibility of the University discontinuing the award of an M.A. degree, but the Board has agreed with the Faculties' views that it would be unwise to take this step at present.

Public Relations

The Council is discussing with the Board steps which might be taken to make the University's work more widely known and understood. The Vice-Chancellor would welcome any observations which friends of the University would care to offer on this matter.

Scholarship Scheme

In response to a request from the Students' Association the Council has asked the Vice-Chancellor, the Heads of Schools and the Master of University House, to advise on whether the University's present scheme of scholarship awards is attracting the best type of student and giving him the best kind of training which the University is able to offer.

Membership of Council

The Master of University House has been co-opted as a member of the Council until 30th June, 1958. The Council welcomed Professor Trendall to its ranks at its meeting of 10th September. At the same meeting Mr. W. D. Borrie was granted leave of absence for the period of his study leave abroad.

Sale of Liquor Statute

The Council has made a Statute dealing with the sale of liquor in University House following an amendment of an Australian Capital Territory Ordinance exempting University House from the operation of the normal licensing provisions. The Statute empowers the Governing Body of University House to regulate the sale of liquor in the House, and provides that in general liquor must not be sold except to a member or resident of the House.

Convocation Statute

The Council has made a major amendment to the Convocation Statute. Henceforward the membership of Convocation will comprise the following persons: members of the Council; graduates of the University; members of the academic staff of or above the rank of Research Fellow; the Master and Fellows of University House; the Registrar, the Librarian and the Accountant, and such other persons as the Council declares to be senior officers; the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of each other Australian University, and the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the C.S.I.R.O.; persons specially added by the Council. Research Fellows and Senior Research Fellows will cease to be members if they leave the University before completing three years' service, but otherwise membership will be for life. The membership of present members of Convocation will of course continue.

Site Consultants

The Council has now appointed Professor Denis Winston, Professor of Town and Country Planning in the University of Sydney, and Mr. Grenfell Rudduck, Assistant Secretary (Development) in the Commonwealth Department of National Development, as joint Site Consultants. The Consultants are already at work and, following detailed consultation with members of the University staff and others, will prepare a site plan and report. The Consultants hope to complete their principal task by the end of July, 1955.

Relations with Canberra University College

The Working Party established by the University and the College has had a series of meetings and has now submitted a report to the two Councils.

Purchase of Houses by Staff

A scheme has now been approved under which permanent members of the University staff will be able, on certain conditions, to purchase houses from the University.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

Vice-Chancellors' Committee

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee met in Canberra from 6th-8th October. Members of the Committee were accommodated and the meetings were held at University House.

Term Dates for 1955

Next year's Term dates will be:—
First Term—14th March to 21st May.
Second Term—14th June to 13th August.
Third Term—5th September to 10th December.

The commencing date of First Term may, in accordance with a recent suggestion, be changed to 7th February.

University Auditors

At the Vice-Chancellor's suggestion the University is considering retaining a private firm of auditors to fulfil certain functions not covered in the course of the official audit of the University's accounts.

Sports Union

At a meeting held on 16th September, members of the Sports Union adopted a formal constitution. Membership of the Union will be open to all members of the University and their wives, and the Union will affiliate clubs interested in various forms of sport within the University. When the constitution had been adopted the Union elected the following office bearers: Professor Davidson, President; Dr. J. O. N. Perkins, Secretary; Miss Mary Coppinger, Treasurer. The Union's constitution was noted with approval at the last meeting of the Standing Committee of the Council.

Sulman Award

University House has been awarded the Sir John Sulman Medal and Diploma for Architecture for 1954 by the New South Wales Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. The building was designed by Professor Brian Lewis, Professor of Architecture, University of Melbourne. A plaque commemorating the award will be placed in the vestibule of the House.

Deanships

The question of the continuation of the Deanships was recently before Council. It was decided to extend the existing appointments till the end of 1955 and in view of the proposed absence of Professor Sawer and Professor Nadel on study leave during 1955 to appoint Professor Partridge and Professor Spate acting Deans for this period.

Visit by the Governor General

Their Excellencies the Governor General and Lady Slim paid an informal visit to the University on Thursday, 21st October, and were entertained at lunch in University House.

Medical Building Contract

A contract has now been let for the erection of the major part of the laboratories of the John Curtin School of Medical Research. The contractor is Mr. Karl Schreiner, of Canberra, and his two principal sub-contractors will be the A.C.T. Engineering Co. Pty. Ltd., of Canberra for the mechanical services, and J. W. Bartholomew & Sons Pty. Ltd., of Sydney for the electrical work. The estimated completion date is 31st January, 1956. The contract for the laying of foundations and certain other preliminary work has been very promptly executed, and Mr. Schreiner will be able to start the work of his contract on the due date, 1st November. The amount of the whole of the present contract is £984,506.

Academic Dress

A small number of plain black gowns, correct dress for the University's higher doctorates, Doctors of Philosophy and Masters, hoods and caps are available for hire from the Registrar's Office at the following rates—gown 10/-; hood 7/6; cap 5/-.

UNIVERSITY HOUSE

Since the last issue of the "News" appeared, several further developments have taken place in University House, although the number of permanent residents has remained fairly constantly at about 70. All the furniture for the Common Rooms and Private Dining Rooms is now to hand and these rooms can now be used to their fullest advantage. Regular meetings have been taking place both in the newly opened Ladies' Wing and in other parts of the House and the facilities which it has to offer are clearly greatly appreciated by those who take advantage of them. The Library continues to expand and has benefited by the gift of a number of books from Mr. Norman Bartlett.

The opening of Third Term was marked by a Commencement Dinner on Monday, 6th September, and on 12th October a second formal Guest Night was held, attended by nearly 200 members and friends. A variety of entertainment was offered as on the previous occasion and the evening was voted no less successful than its predecessor. In addition to the formal nights there have been several informal evening parties and concerts for members and residents; at one of these we were privileged to have an opportunity of seeing a puppet show by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wilkinson, and the two sessions attracted a very large and appreciative audience. In recent weeks the House has welcomed as residents a number of distinguished visitors from overseas including Sir Charles Morris, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Leeds; Sir Alan Watt, Australian High Commissioner in Malaya; Mr. Victor L. Robinson, Attorney-General of the Central African Federa-

tion. The Vice-Chancellors held their Conference this year in University House and were entertained to dinner by the Master during the proceedings. Several other public or learned bodies have availed themselves of the facilities which the House has to offer as a meeting place; to their own advantage as well as that of the residents, who greatly appreciate the opportunity these visits offer for meeting interesting people and for discussion. The landscaping of the Quadrangle and the area behind the Western Wing is now complete and it is hoped soon to start upon the area in front of the House. An attractive sundial, specially made

for Canberra, has been presented to the House and will be erected on a suitable pedestal in the garden outside the Ladies' Wing.

The collection of pictures is slowly increasing and the Governing Body are particularly grateful to Mrs. A. J. Henman for presenting a small landscape by Max Meldrum and another by his pupil, Clarice A'Beckett. It is hoped in the not too distant future to have a fairly representative collection of paintings by modern Australian artists which for the time being will be housed in the Writing Room.

STAFF MEMBERS

New Appointments

Dr. H. J. F. Cairns has been appointed Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Microbiology. Dr. Cairns is a graduate in Arts, and also a Doctor of Medicine of the University of Oxford. After holding appointments in various United Kingdom hospitals he was a Colonial Office medical research student at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne, 1950-51, and subsequently took up an appointment as Medical Research Officer in the Colonial Medical Research Service in Uganda. Dr. Cairns is married and has three children.

Mr. H. Berry has been appointed Chemist with the status of Senior Fellow in the Department of Radiochemistry. Mr. Berry graduated M.Sc. from Victoria University, Manchester, in 1924, and his subsequent career has been mainly concerned with the chemical assessment of coal resources with the Fuel Research Board in Great Britain, and since 1950 with the Coal Research Section of C.S.I.R.O. in Sydney.

Mr. N. G. Butlin has been appointed Reader in Economic History in the Department of Economics. Mr. Butlin is a University medallist in economics from the University of Sydney and has previously held appointments as an economist in the Commonwealth Public Service; lecturer in economic history at the University of Sydney; Social Science Fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation at Harvard University and Senior Research Fellow in Economic History in this University, to which he came in 1951.

Mr. J. H. Peacock has been appointed Staff Officer in the Registrar's office. Mr. Peacock is a graduate in Economics from the University of Sydney and has been employed by the Commonwealth Bank since 1939. Mr. Peacock is married and will take up duty on 15th November.

Dr. C. A. Price has been appointed a Fellow in the Department of Demography. Dr. Price completed his D.Phil. at Oxford in 1951 and took up an appointment as Research Fellow in Demography in this University in 1952.

News and Movements

Dr. F. C. Barker's appointment as a Research Fellow in the Research School of Physical Sciences expired during September and he has now left to take up a short-term appointment with the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell.

Dr. Joyce Ackroyd recently returned from Japan where she has spent the last twelve months carrying out research in connection with her project on the status of women in Japan.

Dr. M. Titiev left Canberra in August to return to the University of Michigan after spending twelve months in the University as a Fulbright visitor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology.

Dr. G. H. de Vaucouleurs, whose appointment as a Research Fellow in the Department of Astronomy expired during July, has taken up a new appointment in connection with the Astronomical Station at Mount Stromlo being operated by the Universities of Yale and Columbia.

Lord Lindsay of Birker, who, together with Lady Lindsay, accompanied the British Labour Party delegation on its recent visit to China, attended the Institute of Pacific Relations conference in Japan from 27th September to 8th October. Lord Lindsay is returning to Canberra by way of Thailand, Burma and India where he will continue his investigations into the working of the Parliamentary system in Asian countries.

Dr. G. M. Watson, who has held an appointment as Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Experimental Pathology since 1951, will return to Australia on 1st November, his fellowship having expired.

Professor Spate (Geography) and **Mr. J. M. Bennett,** a student in the Department of Geography, will pay a short visit to the New Hebrides during November.

Mr. E. Irving, a recently appointed Research Fellow in the Department of Geophysics, will sail from the United Kingdom on 10th November.

Dr. G. S. Watson, whose appointment as a Senior Fellow in the Department of Statistics was announced in the last issue of the "News," will take up duty in Canberra at the end of February.

Dr. P. B. Treacy's Research Fellowship in the Department of Nuclear Physics has been extended for a period of two years.

Mr. C. Pedersen has resigned his position as Research Assistant in the Department of Medical Chemistry.

- Mr. G. R. Storry, a Research Fellow in the Department of International Relations, who has been engaged on field work in Japan since February, 1953, will return to Canberra at the end of October. Mr. Storry plans to return to the United Kingdom in January next.
- Dr. F. J. West, a Research Fellow in the Department of Pacific History, has been appointed a Senior Lecturer in History at the Victoria University College, Wellington, New Zealand, and expects to take up his appointment in February. Early in October, Dr. West left on a field trip to New Guinea to complete his documentary study of Australian administration in the highlands, and he is expected to return to Canberra in January.
- Mr. C. Kiernan, a Research Assistant in the Department of History, resigned during August to take up a Mannix Travelling Scholarship at Cambridge, where he will read for an Honours Degree in History. Mr. Kiernan was married to Miss Joan McKay, of Canberra, before sailing for England.
- Dr. J. D. Freeman, who has been appointed a Senior Fellow in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, will pay a short visit to Canberra at the beginning of November.
- Mr. E. J. Scollay has resigned his position as University Architect which he has held since early in 1953 to accept a position in Canberra with Messrs. Mussen, McKay & Potter. Messrs. Mussen, McKay & Potter are the architects for the John Curtin School of Medical Research, but Mr. Scollay's duties will not be concerned with this project.
- Dr. J. N. Phillips, sometime Scholar of the University, and now a Research Fellow in the Department of Medical Chemistry, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the University of London following the presentation of a thesis embodying the results of the research carried out under his scholarship.
- The Registrar and the Assistant Registrars attended the Annual Conference of Australian University Registrars in Melbourne in August. It is the practice of the Registrars to invite a New Zealand colleague to attend the Conference, and on this occasion Mr. E. G. Kedgley, Assistant Registrar of the University of New Zealand, was in Australia for that purpose. Mr. and Mrs. Kedgley paid a

short visit to Canberra immediately before the Conference.

- Professors Oliphant, Nadel and Spate and Mr. L. C. Webb attended the Pan-Indian Ocean Science Congress held in Perth during September. Mr. Webb delivered a paper to the Congress, addressed the Perth Branch of the Economic Society of Australia and New Zealand, and gave lectures at the University. Professor Nadel also attended a meeting of the British Psychological Society, Australian Branch.
- Mr. A. J. T. Ford, Secretary of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, has just returned from a short and unexpected visit to Canada where, as one of the Australian delegates, he attended the Commonwealth Inter-University Conference held at Kingston, Ontario. Mr. Ford visited Universities in the Maritime provinces and Laval University, Quebec, before returning to Australia.

Professor Titterton (Nuclear Physics) returned to Canberra during October after five months' study leave in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Werner Levi, Professor of Political Science in the University of Minnesota, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to carry out research in Pacific History. It is expected that Dr. Levi, who will be accompanied by his wife and two children, will arrive in Canberra in March.

Professor Sawer (Law) visited the University of Queensland from 4th-13th September at the invitation of the Faculties of Law, History and Political Science. Professor Sawer delivered lectures and conducted seminars on the law and politics of double dissolutions of the Commonwealth Parliament, the law and politics of dissolving seditious associations, the conduct of administrative tribunals, the legal theory of statutory government corporations and the strategy and tactics of constitutional litigation.

Mr. R. W. Davidson, the Administrative Assistant in the Architect's Office, who has been on loan to the University from the Commonwealth Bank since March, will resume duties with the Bank in Sydney at the end of October.

Miss Joan Morrish, Secretary to the Vice-Chancellor, left the University on 15th October to take up a position in Sydney.

SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS

- Mr. J. R. Hall, who was awarded a Scholarship earlier this year, has been granted permission to defer taking up the award until March, 1955.
- Mr. Noel Barnard, a student in the Department of Far Eastern History, who has been engaged on field work in Japan for the past twelve months, returned to Canberra during October.
- Mr. R. B. Mitchell, who has been studying at Oxford on a general scholarship, has resigned his scholarship following his appointment as Lecturer in English Language at St. Edmund Hall and Merton College.
- Mr. K. R. W. Brewer, a Scholar in the Department of Astronomy, has resigned his scholarship and taken up an appointment with the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

Mr. D. W. Smellie (Geophysics) is at present engaged on field work in the Northern Territory.

Miss Emma Sadka (Pacific History) will be absent on field work in Malaya until February.

Messrs. H. P. Harrison and R. N. Rosecrance, American Fulbright students in the Department of Political Science and International Relations respectively, will arrive in Canberra on 4th November.

Mr. F. H. Leslie arrived in Canberra on 3rd August to take up his scholarship in the Department of Far Eastern History.

Mr. R. Bulmer (Anthropology and Sociology) will

leave for New Guinea with Mrs. Bulmer on 23rd October for about 12 months to carry out field work.

The following students were recently admitted by the Board of Graduate Studies:—(name; degree for which enrolled; Department; duration of course; supervisor; topic of research; commencing date of course).

S. C. Das; Ph.D.; Statistics; 3 years; Professor Moran;

to be defined later; 5th July, 1954.

Kathleen M. Jupp; M.A.; Demography; 2 years; Mr. Butlin and Dr. Price; "The Australian Population, 1921-33"; 7th September, 1954.

F. H. Leslie; Ph.D.; Far Eastern History; 3 years; Dr. Mulder; Modern Chinese History; 6th September, 1954.

PRINCIPAL DATES

October

21st—Thursday: Public Lecture Series: Professor Fenner, "The Conquest of Infectious Diseases," Institute of Anatomy, 8.15 p.m.

29th-Friday: Board of Graduate Studies.

November

11th-Thursday: Finance Committee.

12th-Friday: Council.

25th-Thursday: Inaugural Lecture: Professor Davidson,

"The Study of Pacific History," University House, 8.15 p.m.

December

3rd-Friday: Board of Graduate Studies.

10th-Friday: Finance Committee. Standing Committee.

11th-Saturday: Third term ends.

25th-Saturday: Christmas Day. University Office closed until 4th Januray, 1955.

PUBLICATION

"Italians and Germans in Australia" by W. D. Borrie (assisted by D. R. G. Packer) (F. W. Cheshire, Melbourne, for The Australian National University; 1954; 30s. net.).

In July 1950 a meeting convened in Paris by Unesco decided to ask certain demographers to prepare a volume each on the assimilation of European ethnic groups in their respective countries; the authors to be allowed to publish separately provided Unesco could use each volume as the basis for a synoptic study. The work above is the full Australian study.

There have been previous works on European minorities in Australia but none so far have covered the ground so comprehensively as "Italians and Germans in Australia." Part A contains a general survey of Australia's immigration policy and of the social conditions and attitudes confronting European migrants on arrival; it also contains a brief survey of the smaller national groups, based primarily upon census and immigration statistics. Part B contains a detailed study of Italian settlements in North Queensland, based partly on census material and partly

on information provided by Italian school children in selected areas. Part C contains a detailed study of the German settlements in South Australia, based on official material, a certain amount of published sources, and special investigations amongst German newspapers, marriage records and the like. Part D sums up from the demographic point of view the whole process of cultural assimilation.

While the author is the first to admit that the study is designed to open up territory as yet little explored, and that much remains to be done on family and group processes of immigration and settlement, yet the work is much more than a preliminary. The chapter on Australian attitudes is a provocative sketch of certain antipodean characteristics; while the statistical sections on intermarriage, occupations and the like have extracted as much as is possible from census and immigration records. Likewise the final section raises useful thoughts on those forces—religion, geographical isolation, industrial function and the like—which have governed the process of assimilation in this country.

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