

NEWS

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A SCIENTIST IN MOSCOW

Professor M. L. Oliphant, Director of the Research School of Physical Sciences, has kindly supplied the following notes on his recent visit to Moscow:—

Early in 1932 my wife and I planned a leisurely holiday in which we would travel through Russia from Leningrad to Odessa, thence to Constantinople, the Grecian Archipelago, Athens and back to Cambridge. Before the summer came the Cavendish Laboratory was in a ferment over the discovery of the neutron, and of nuclear transformation by accelerated protons, and a long holiday was impossible. Later, travel in Russia became difficult and very expensive so, despite invitations to visit laboratories and to lecture there, I waited for too long and was excluded by the Iron Curtain. I was glad, therefore, when I was invited by the President of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences to attend a conference in Moscow in May of this year.

Although the spring was far advanced in England, there was pack-ice in the Baltic and the forests of Finland and Russia were still white with snow beneath the trees. My first impression of the U.S.S.R. was of an extraordinarily empty and inhospitable land, covered with scrubby forest of birch and pine or with immense bogs. During the four hours or more of the flight from Helsinki to Moscow, there was little sign of habitation. Darkness came after an hour or two, but no lights showed on the ground until we were within thirty minutes of our destination. Then the vast sprawling glow of towns appeared, curiously different from Western cities because there were no neon signs.

At Moscow airport I was met by Dr. Veksler, Dr. Landau and others. We sat for a short time in an elaborate reception room with very Victorian furnishings and scientific discussions began at once! We drove into Moscow in Dr. Veksler's car. A fine automobile with chauffeur is one of the perquisites of a senior scientist in the U.S.S.R. The first glimpse of the city was of the enormous tower of the University outlined in red lights, then empty, clean and very wide streets, the Kremlin with red stars burning on its pinnacles, and the Hotel Moscow where foreign delegates to the conference stayed. I had been allotted a suite on the ninth floor. In the sitting room I found a large grand piano, a television set, a radio and a huge desk with plate-glass top, all in a setting of Victorian splendour.

After this introduction to Russia I was not surprised to receive the utmost kindness and hospitality at all times. Throughout my stay, in Moscow and Leningrad, I found myself completely free to do whatever I wished. It was a great pleasure to meet again Russians whom I had known well in Cambridge and to visit them freely in their homes. There were no boundaries to discussion,

which ranged from politics in the U.S.S.R. and the West, international relations and economics, to Soviet science, universities, schools and modern industry. I found that Russian scientists were revelling in the freedoms which they now enjoyed, following the death of Stalin. The removal of totalitarian restraints on free intercourse, the virtual disappearance of the activities of the secret police, and the return of large numbers of political prisoners from concentration camps, had brought fresh impetus and renewed enthusiasm to the already highly developed scientific and technological programmes of the U.S.S.R.

The conference was attended by about 500 Russian scientists who displayed a keen interest and understanding of the proceedings and contributed wholeheartedly to lively discussion. The outstanding impression of my visit is the magnitude of the Soviet effort in science and engineering and the very large numbers of highly trained and competent men of science working on all projects. The physical sciences in Russia are highly developed and compare favourably with similar activities in the West. I was very surprised to find the extent to which individual effort and initiative had been preserved in these subjects. There was no sign of regimentation. Differences of opinion and of approach to problems were hotly debated, with no apparent respect for authority. It was clear that the physical sciences had escaped the political interference which had handicapped seriously all work in the biological sciences. I was assured that Lysenko was now discredited and that good scientists would no longer avoid work in biology. If this is so, it seems likely that the quality of Russian work in these fields will grow rapidly to the level attained in the physical sciences.

In general conversation, as in discussion with individuals, there was a refreshing and encouraging willingness to admit blunders and mistakes in past political and economic policies. This was particularly true of agriculture, where I was told that sweeping changes were to be made, including withdrawal from some arctic and arid marginal areas and intensive development of others. There was great and natural pride in the many outstanding achievements of industry, particularly in aeronautics, in heavy earth-moving equipment and in atomic energy. A universal nostalgia was expressed for peace and international understanding, which would allow the full scientific and technological effort to be devoted to problems of internal development. Nevertheless, there was no sign of any abandonment of the Marx-Leninist approach to all problems, at any rate in

theory, though scientists and other "useful" categories of trained persons in short supply now receive salaries and perquisites which are very large in comparison with those paid in the West.

Consumer goods, including private motor cars, are slowly becoming more plentiful in Russia, but prices are generally high. Food seemed plentiful in Moscow and Leningrad and was eaten in huge quantities. Housing is far short of demand, despite a colossal building programme and extreme mechanization of building operations, but rents are very low. Most modern architecture is ugly and art seemed uninspired. Clothing is drab and uninteresting. The ballet, opera and musical

concerts, which were freely available to foreign members of the conference, are extremely good and Russian audiences are obviously greatly moved by these performances. Ordinary life appeared to me to be rather dull and monotonous, relieved for the majority only by a devotion to sport as great as that in Australia.

The Iron Curtain is down, even if some barriers to free communication between the Soviet and Western countries still remain. I believe that we should take full advantage of these changed conditions by encouraging the exchange of men of science, and scholars of all kinds, between Australia and Russia. Understanding and co-operation are the surest paths to permanent peace.

Council and the Board of Graduate Studies

Membership of the Council

The Right Honourable Viscount Bruce of Melbourne has been co-opted as a member of the Council for a further period of twelve months from 1st August, 1956. Lord Bruce's second term as Chancellor of the University commenced on 1st August, 1955.

Mr. K. E. Beazley and Mr. P. E. Joske have been elected members of the Council by the House of Representatives for a two-year term to 30th June, 1958. Mr. Beazley has been a member since 1949 and Mr. Joske replaces Dr. D. A. Cameron.

Mr. R. J. L. Hawke (Law) and Mr. W. P. Hogan (Economics) have been elected members of the Council by the Students and will hold office until 30th June, 1957.

The Canberra University College

The University Council recently endorsed recommendations put forward by the Board of Graduate Studies answering questions that have been under consideration for a long time with regard to the relationship between the National University and the Canberra University College. These recommendations were:—

- (a) It is not in the best interests of the development of The Australian National University as a national research and post-graduate institution that the Canberra University College should be incorporated in The Australian National University.
- (b) The Board expressed the hope that the existing co-operation between The Australian National University and the Canberra University College should be maintained.

In the light of this advice from its Academic Body the Council decided to advise the Council of the Canberra University College that in the University's view the development of the College should be planned on the basis of independence of The Australian National University.

The University was not acting in a purely self-interested way in coming to this decision. The interests of the College have always been in mind even though the advice the Board of Graduate Studies has given

could properly relate only to the effect of any form of incorporation on the work and objectives of The Australian National University.

The University is deeply conscious that undergraduate facilities are needed in Canberra and members of the National University staff are amongst those looking for undergraduate training for their children. The University has always co-operated closely with the College and will be anxious to develop ways in which this close co-operation can be continued.

Salaries in the United Kingdom

The practice has been that those joining the staff of the University in the United Kingdom are paid their Australian salaries at par but with the transfer of the Department of Medical Chemistry to Canberra, the Council has now decided that this practice should in general be discontinued.

Basic Wage Increase

The Council has agreed that, in accordance with the recent Arbitration Court decision, all salaries and salary ranges in the University should be increased by £24 per annum for adult males and £18 per annum for adult females, with corresponding adjustments for juniors and appropriate increases for those employed on award conditions. It is usual University practice not to differentiate between males and females holding academic appointments and this practice will be continued. Following these adjustments, scholarship allowances have been increased by £21 per annum.

Removal Expenses

The Council has amended the existing rules to provide that permanent appointees from abroad shall be paid an allowance on the basis of £A200 plus two-thirds of any excess over this amount. Previously the University met only half of the excess over £A200. Alternatively a member of staff may elect to accept a grant of £A70 per member of his family, the previous allowance being £stg.50.

Publications Committee

Dr. J. D. Freeman has been appointed a member of the Publications Committee.

General Developments

Royal Visit

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh will make an informal visit to the University on 20th November, when he will visit the Research School of Physical Sciences and the John Curtin School of Medical Research.

Convocation

The following names have been added to the Roll of Convocation:

Doyle, Hugh Aynsley, B.Sc. (Syd.)
Hawke, Robert James Lee, B.A., LL.B. (W.Aust),
B.Litt. (Oxon)

Hogan, Warren Pat, M.A. (N.Z.)
 Joske, Percy Ernest, M.A., LL.M. (Melb.), Q.C.
 Le Couteur, Kenneth James, M.A., Ph.D. (Cantab.)
 Lundberg, Paul Anders, M.D. (Stockholm)
 Stacey, Frank Donald, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Lond.)

Visitors

Recent visitors to the University have included Professor A. J. Toynbee, lately Director of Studies in the Royal Institute of International Affairs and Research Professor of International History in the University of London; Dr. E. R. Leach of the University of Cambridge; Mr. R. D. Heuston, Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford, and at present a visiting Professor at the University of Melbourne; Professor Kadish of the University of Utah, at present a visiting Professor at the University of Melbourne; Professor D. Durham, Professor of Jurisprudence in the University of Melbourne (Professor Durham delivered a paper in the series of joint seminars being conducted by the Research Schools of Social Sciences and Pacific Studies on the "Structure of Associations and Corporate groups.")

Morrison Lecture

Dr. L. B. Cox of Melbourne has accepted an invitation to give the 1956 Morrison Lecture. The lecture will be held on 17th October. The subject will be "The Cave Temples of Yun-kang and Lung-men."

Gifts

Mrs. D. Garsia has presented her late husband's collection of Australian and Island weapons to the University and Professor A. D. Trendall has presented an Attic black figured pitcher of the early 6th century B.C.

Forrest Flats

For some time the University has had land available next to the existing Forrest Flats for an additional sixteen units. A tender has now been accepted for the construction of a block of four flats and work is expected to be completed early next year.

Nuffield Dominions Trust

Some years ago Lord Nuffield created a Trust to promote the progress of medical knowledge by co-operation between the Medical School of the University of Oxford and such of the Universities of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa as provide facilities for medical research. The Trustees have agreed to a proposal by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee that The Australian National University and the University of Western Australia should be included in the scope of the scheme.

The effect of the decision is that in future, when a vacancy for an appointment to a demonstratorship or a clinical assistantship under the Trust is offered to the Australian Universities, The Australian National University will be entitled to submit a nomination.

Staff Members

New Appointments

Mr. W. S. Hamilton, who was appointed Accountant in 1950, has been appointed Bursar of the University. Before joining the University he held various appointments in the State and Commonwealth Public Services and, during the war, served in the Paymaster's Branch of the R.A.A.F.

Dr. D. J. Brown has been appointed a Senior Fellow in the Department of Medical Chemistry. Dr. Brown graduated B.Sc. with First Class Honours in Organic Chemistry from the University of Sydney in 1941 and subsequently joined Professor Albert's Chemotherapy Group at the University of Sydney. In October 1946 he enrolled as a post-graduate student at the Imperial College, London, and completed his Ph.D. and the Diploma of the Imperial College in 1948. He then rejoined Professor Albert's Department in London supported by a Medical Research Council Grant and in April 1949 was appointed a Research Fellow in the Department of Medical Chemistry. In October the same year he was appointed a Fellow. As was reported in the June issue of the "News", Dr. Brown will sail with his wife and three children for Canberra in October after a period of study leave.

Dr. J. S. Bastin has been appointed a Fellow in the Department of Pacific History. Dr. Bastin graduated B.A. with First Class Honours in 1949, and in 1951 M.A., from the University of Melbourne. Subsequently, he was awarded various scholarships which enabled him to undertake post-graduate research work at the University of Leiden, of which he is a Doctor of Literature and Philosophy, and Oxford University, where he completed a D.Phil. He is at present a lecturer in History in the University of Queensland. Dr. Bastin is married with one child and expects to arrive in Canberra in November.

Dr. R. L. Blakley, a Research Fellow in the Department of Biochemistry since 1953, has been appointed a Fellow in that Department. Dr. Blakley is a graduate of the University of New Zealand and took a Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the University of Otago in 1951. He was then awarded a National University scholarship to carry out research at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill.

Dr. J. H. Carver has been appointed to a Fellowship in the Department of Nuclear Physics. Dr. Carver graduated B.Sc. with First Class Honours in Physics in the University of Sydney in 1948, and took the M.Sc. in 1949. He was then awarded a National University scholarship which he took up at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, where he completed a Ph.D. Since 1953 he has been a Research Fellow in the Department of Nuclear Physics.

Dr. E. K. Inall has been appointed a Fellow in the Department of Particle Physics. Dr. Inall is a graduate of the University of Sydney in the Faculties of Science (1942) and Engineering (1944). After working with the C.S.I.R.O., he went to England in 1947 to work at the laboratories of Associated Electrical Industries, Aldermaston. In 1951 he was appointed Research Fellow in the Department of Nuclear Physics. He was admitted to the degree of Ph.D. of the University of Reading in 1954.

Dr. W. K. Joklik has been appointed a Fellow in the Department of Microbiology. Dr. Joklik graduated B.Sc. from the University of Sydney in 1947 with First Class Honours in Biochemistry and in 1948, M.Sc. In 1949 he worked as a research officer at the Waite Institute in Adelaide and the same year was awarded a National University scholarship under which he studied at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology in Oxford.

After graduating D.Phil. from Oxford in October 1952, he was appointed Research Fellow in the Department of Microbiology. He then spent some eight months in Copenhagen and arrived in Canberra in October 1953.

Dr. J. F. Morrison has been appointed a Fellow in the Department of Biochemistry. Dr. Morrison graduated in Science in the University of Sydney and in 1949 took an M.Sc. in the University of Queensland. In 1951 he went as a National University Scholar to Oxford University where he completed the degree of D.Phil. In 1954 he was appointed Research Fellow in the Department of Biochemistry.

Mr. H. E. Maude has been appointed a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Pacific History. Mr. Maude has had extensive experience, mainly in an administrative capacity, in the Pacific Islands and is well known as the former Deputy Secretary General of the South Pacific Commission and more recently as the Executive Officer for Social Development of the South Pacific Commission Research Council. Mr. Maude graduated M.A., with Honours in Economics and Anthropology, from the University of Cambridge. Mr. Maude expects to take up duty on 1st January, 1957.

Dr. D. R. Curtis has been appointed a Research Fellow in the Department of Physiology. He graduated

in the Faculty of Medicine from the University of Melbourne in 1950 and later became Registrar of the Department of Neurology at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. Since February 1954, as a Research student, he has been working for a Ph.D. in the Department of Physiology.

Mr. J. B. Wight has been appointed Technical Manager of the John Curtin School of Medical Research following a re-organisation of the administration of the laboratories on Mr. A. F. Bunker's resignation. Mr. Wight, who took up his duties on 13th August, was previously with the C.S.I.R.O. as Senior Technical Assistant in the Sheep Pathology Laboratory. He is married with two children.

Mr. L. W. Wheeldon, who holds the degree of B.Sc. from the University of Sydney, has been appointed a Research Assistant for four months in the Department of Biochemistry. Mr. Wheeldon recently completed his course as a Ph.D. student in the Department of Biochemistry and will shortly submit his thesis.

Miss Tanya Hedges has been appointed Administrative Assistant in the Registrar's office. Miss Hedges graduated B.A. from the University of Queensland in 1954 and subsequently worked as an Assistant Librarian in the Public Library of Queensland and more recently as a Clerk in the Commonwealth Public Service in Brisbane. Miss Hedges took up duty on 15th August.

News and Movement

Professor A. D. Trendall received the degree of Litt.D. (honoris causa) from the University of Melbourne during the recent Centenary celebrations at which the Vice-Chancellor was the University's official representative.

Professor F. J. Fenner (Microbiology) spent some three weeks in Indonesia advising on the staffing and equipping of Medical Schools in the Indonesian Universities. Professor S. Sunderland of Melbourne and Professor H. N. Robson of Adelaide travelled to Indonesia with Professor Fenner, the visit being sponsored under the Colombo Plan.

Professor E. W. Titterton (Nuclear Physics) was present at the Monte Bello Islands as a member of the Atomic Weapons Safety Committee during the tests held in May and June. He visited Tasmania from 24th to 26th July to give lectures in the University, to the Hydro-electric Commission and the Institute of Engineers.

Professor O. H. K. Spate (Geography) who is overseas on study leave has travelled widely in the United Kingdom lecturing to University and local geographical societies. In London he gave a series of three University lectures which dealt with certain aspects of the geography of Australia and he also lectured to the Royal Geographical Society on New Guinea development. He has visited Holland in pursuit of material on the discovery of Australia and intends visiting Portugal for the same reason. In August he flew to Rio de Janeiro as a guest of the International Geographical Union which had asked him to be a Chairman of Section at its Congress. He will leave England in September, spending some time in India at the request of the Indian Government and is expected to return to Canberra in December.

Professor G. Sawyer is attending a meeting of University professors which has been arranged in Paris by the Committee on Science and Freedom. He will return to Australia about the middle of September via the United Kingdom and the U.S.A.

Professor L. C. Webb was a member of a delegation which visited Taiwan (Formosa) for two weeks in August at the invitation of the Chinese Government.

Professor A. K. Mann, who spent a year in the Department of Nuclear Physics as a Fulbright visitor, left Canberra on 24th June with his wife and family for America.

The Vice-Chancellor has been appointed by the Council to represent the University on the Canberra University College Council for a two-year term from 1st July, 1956.

The Registrar attended the Registrars' Conference held at the University of New England from 22nd to 24th August.

Professor B. J. Bok whose appointment as Professor of Astronomy was announced in the June issue of the "News", will visit Canberra during September. He will then return to Harvard before coming to Canberra to take up the appointment in February, 1957.

Dr. W. E. H. Stanner, Reader in Comparative Social Institutions, returned to Canberra in July after spending about ten months in the United States and the United Kingdom on study leave.

Dr. S. C. B. Gascoigne, Research Associate in the Department of Astronomy, has accepted an invitation to spend three months from August at the Lick Observatory, U.S.A., as Visiting Assistant Astronomer. Dr. Gascoigne proposes to visit the main Observatories in the United States, the United Kingdom and Europe before returning to Canberra at the end of January, 1957.

Mr. J. N. Jennings, Reader in Geomorphology, visited Adelaide in August to lecture at the University and on the return journey represented the University College of Leicester at the University of Melbourne's Centenary celebrations.

Dr. Joyce Ackroyd, a Research Fellow in the Department of Far Eastern History, who is at present working in Japan on a Saionji Memorial Scholarship, has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Japanese at the Canberra University College.

Mr. J. F. Lovering, who took up a Research Fellowship in the Department of Geophysics at the beginning of the year, has had his Ph.D. conferred in absentia by the California Institute of Technology.

Mr. L. J. Tassie whose appointment as a Research Fellow in the Department of Theoretical Physics was announced in the last issue of the "News", expects to come to Canberra during September.

The designation of **Mr. R. L. Gibson** has been altered to House Manager of University House.

Mr. P. D. Singleton, who joined the staff of the University Library in April, 1949, resigned from 3rd August. Mr. Singleton proposes to undertake the post-graduate diploma course in Librarianship in the School of Librarianship and Archives, University College, London.

Mr. T. Langford Smith, a former Research Fellow in the Department of Geography, joined the staff of the University of Sydney in June as a lecturer in the Department of Geography.

Mr. J. W. Blamey, a Fellow in the Department of Particle Physics, represented the Research School of Physical Sciences at the CERN Conference in Geneva in June.

Dr. J. B. Warren, a visiting research worker in the Department of Nuclear Physics, left Sydney on 13th July with his wife and family to return to the University of British Columbia.

Mr. A. J. T. Ford, who has been Secretary of the Vice-Chancellors' Committee since 1950, has been appointed Deputy Registrar of the New South Wales University of Technology.

Research Students

The following additional scholarship awards have been announced:

George Maurice Kelly (International Relations), 26, graduated M.A. with First Class Honours in French from the University of Otago in 1950. Mr. Kelly joined the United Kingdom Foreign Service in 1952 and studied Chinese at the London School of Oriental and African Studies. He continued his studies at the University of Hong Kong and in February, 1954, joined the New Zealand Department of External Affairs. Mr. Kelly has now arrived in Canberra to take up the award.

Douglas Sinclair Kemsley (Geophysics), 30, graduated B.Sc. in Metallurgy from the University of Melbourne in 1949 and M.Sc. in 1954. He was with the C.S.I.R.O. from 1946 to 1949, and from 1950 to 1953, he was lecturing in Metallurgy at the Western Australia School of Mines. He is at present with the Department of Supply and expects to take up the award

towards the end of the year. Mr. Kemsley is married with one child.

Mr. E. Klestadt (Far Eastern History) expects to leave Japan for Canberra about 5th September.

Mr. A. C. Riviere (Nuclear Physics) has completed his course of study, and sailed for the United Kingdom on 26th June to take up an appointment with the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston.

Mr. H. J. Hay (Nuclear Physics) completed his Ph.D. course on 25th May. He was married in Melbourne on 2nd June and after visiting New Zealand, sailed for the United Kingdom on 13th July to take up an appointment in the Nuclear Physics Division of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell.

Mr. R. J. L. Hawke (Law) who is working on Industrial Arbitration, attended the recent A.C.T.U. Conference in Melbourne as an observer.

PRINCIPAL DATES

September

- 3rd Monday—Third Term begins
Commencement Dinner — University House.
- 6th Thursday—Finance Committee.
- 7th Friday—Council.
- 19th Wednesday—Joint Faculties' Board.
- 28th Friday—Board of Graduate Studies.

October

- 1st Monday—Labour Day — University Office closed.
- 12th Friday—Finance Committee.
Standing Committee.

PUBLICATION

"Facing the Atomic Future" by E. W. Titterton, Macmillan and Co., London, June 1956; St. Martin's Press, New York, June 1956. An Australian edition was recently published by F. W. Cheshire, Melbourne, and a review of the book will be published in a subsequent issue of the "News."