

Council's Report.

Our membership now totals 348. Fifty-two new members have joined, while we have lost five members by resignation and six by death.

Dr. J. B. Cleland, a Vice-President, has withdrawn from the Council having been appointed to the Chair of Pathology at the Adelaide University.

The Council has awarded the Clarke Memorial Medal to Joseph Edmund Carne, F.G.S., late Government Geologist of New South Wales.

It is gratifying to know that two of our members have been honoured during the past year:—Professor T. W. E. David, in addition to previous honours, having been mentioned in Despatches by Sir Douglas Haig after the close of the war, and Professor S. H. Barraclough having received the Knight Commandership of the British Empire.

Early in the year a communication was received from the Secretary, Royal Society, London, intimating that Australia had been invited to join the International Research Council, and asking the Royal Society of New South Wales to take the necessary steps towards initiating the formation of some organization in Australia which could act as a National Research Council, for the promotion of scientific and industrial research in its various branches, including those of national defence.

Invitations were therefore issued to various scientific bodies to send representatives to discuss the matter, and as a result a Council was formed.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.

Resolutions passed at the Conference held at the Royal Society's House, Sydney, on 21st August, 1919, for the purpose of forming an Australian National Research Council.

PRESENT:—

Professor C. E. Fawsitt (Chairman) and Professor H. G. Chapman delegates from Royal Society of New South Wales.

Mr. C. Hedley and Dr J. Shirley delegates from Royal Society of Queensland.

Professor T. W. Edgeworth David and Mr. C. Hedley delegates from Royal Society of South Australia.

Professor W. A. Haswell and Mr. C. Hedley delegates from Royal Society of Tasmania.

Professor Orme Masson delegate from Royal Society of Victoria.

Professor W. E. Cooke and Mr. J. H. Maiden delegates from Royal Society of Western Australia.

Professor T. W. Edgeworth David and J. H. Maiden delegates from Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science.

Mr. J. J. Fletcher and Dr. A. B. Walkom delegates from Linnean Society of New South Wales.

Professor Orme Masson delegate from Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry.

RESOLUTIONS:—

1. That this meeting proceed to nominate a provisional Australian National Research Council.

2 That each important branch of science in Australia be represented on the Council.

3. That the branches of science to be represented include:— Agriculture, Anthropology, Astronomy, Botany, Chemistry, Engineering, Geography, Geology, Mathematics, Meteorology, Pathology, Physics, Physiology, Veterinary Science, Zoology.

4. That there be two representatives of each of these sciences on the National Council.

5. That the representatives of the provisional Australian National Research Council be :—

1. AGRICULTURE—

A. E. V. Richardson, M.A., B.Sc. (Victoria)

Professor R. D. Watt, M.A., B.Sc. (New South Wales)

2. ANTHROPOLOGY—

C. Hedley, F.L.S. (New South Wales)

Sir Baldwin Spencer, K.C.M.G., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S. (Victoria)

3. ASTRONOMY—

J. M. Baldwin, M.A., D.Sc. (Victoria)

Professor W. E. Cooke, M.A., F.R.A.S. (New South Wales)

4. BOTANY—

J. H. Maiden, I.S.O., F.R.S., F.L.S. (New South Wales)

Professor T. G. B. Osborn, M.Sc. (South Australia)

5. CHEMISTRY—
 Professor Orme Masson, C.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S. (Victoria)
 Professor N. T. M. Wilsmore, D.Sc., (Western Australia)
6. ENGINEERING—
 A. J. Gibson, A. M. Inst. C.E. (New South Wales)
 Professor W. H. Warren, LL.D., Wh. Sc., M. Inst. C.E., M. Am. Soc. C.E. (New South Wales)
7. GEOGRAPHY—
 Sir Douglas Mawson, D.Sc. (South Australia)
 Captain S. L. Piesse, B.Sc., LL.B. (Tasmania)
8. GEOLOGY—
 Professor T. W. E. David, C.M.G., D.S.O., B.A., D.Sc., F.R.S. (N.S. Wales)
 Professor E. W. Skeats, D.Sc., F.G.S. (Victoria)
9. MATHEMATICS—
 Professor H. S. Carslaw, M.A., Sc.D. (New South Wales)
 Professor H. J. Priestley, M.A. (Queensland)
10. METEOROLOGY—
 H. A. Hunt, F.R.M.S. (Victoria)
 T. Griffith Taylor, B.A., B.E., D.Sc. (Victoria)
11. PATHOLOGY—
 Sir Harry B. Allen, M.D., B.S., LL.D. (Victoria)
 Professor D. A. Welsh, M.A., B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.S. (New South Wales)
12. PHYSICS—
 Professor T. R. Lyle, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S. (Victoria)
 Professor J. A. Pollock, D.Sc., F.R.S. (New South Wales)
13. PHYSIOLOGY—
 Professor H. G. Chapman, M.D., B.S. (New South Wales)
 Professor W. A. Osborne, D.Sc., M.B. (Victoria)
14. VETERINARY SCIENCE—
 Professor J. D. Stewart, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. (New South Wales)
 Professor H. A. Woodruff, M.R.C.V.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Victoria)
15. ZOOLOGY—
 Professor W. J. Dakin, D.Sc., F.Z.S., F.L.S. (Western Australia)
 Professor W. A. Haswell, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S. (New South Wales)

6. That Mr. R. H. Cambage, F.L.S. (New South Wales) be a member of the Australian National Research Council and also its Honorary Secretary.

7. That the provisional Council hold office until the new Council shall have been appointed at the next meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, in January 1921.

8. That the election of the new Australian National Research Council be entrusted to the Council of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science at its meeting in January 1921.

9. That at least ten of the retiring members of the Council shall not be eligible for re-election, but that this provision shall not operate at the election of the first Australian National Research Council in January, 1921.

10. That a provisional Executive Committee consisting of a Chairman, the Honorary Secretary, and three other members be appointed to act at once in all matters considered urgent, and that the members of such Executive Committee be:—Professor David, (Chairman), Mr. R. H. Cabbage. (Hon. Secretary), Professor Chapman, Mr. J. H. Maiden, and Professor Pollock.

11. That it be recommended to this provisional Executive Committee that the Commonwealth Government be requested to make the financial provisions necessary for carrying on the work of the Australian National Research Council, and that for this purpose representations be made to the Prime Minister.

12. In the event of any of the members of the provisional Council or the Executive Committee, declining to accept office, that the Executive be empowered to fill the vacancies.

Obituary.

ROBERT ETHERIDGE was one of the oldest members of this Society, having joined in 1879. He was the only child of a most distinguished geologist, Robert Etheridge, Senior, F.R.S., and was born at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and died at Colo Vale, on January 4th, 1920. In the middle sixties he was engaged with others on the first geological survey of Victoria. Returning to Europe he accepted the responsible position of palæontologist to the Geological Survey of Scotland, publishing much valuable work while in that capacity. Fresh and wider fields for research were opened to him by his removal to London, consequent on

receiving an appointment in the British Museum. In the meantime, his old friend and colleague of Edinburgh, Dr. R. Logan Jack, was appointed Government Geologist to Queensland, and he revived Etheridge's interest in Australian geology, by forwarding for study extensive collections of fossils from Queensland. Eventually, their partnership resulted in the production of a large and very important work, "The Geology and Palæontology of Queensland and New Guinea," which was published in 1898, and which has formed the basis of all subsequent geological work in that State. The lure of the south grew more insistent, and yielding to it, Mr. Etheridge returned to Australia in 1887 to fill a dual post in the New South Wales Department of Mines and the Australian Museum. In his former service, he was associated with the late Mr. C. S. Wilkinson, Professor David, Mr. E. F. Pittman, and Mr. J. E. Carne, who has just retired from the control of the Geological Survey. Mr. Etheridge quickly gathered in from various nations standard geological works, which now form the nucleus of a fine library at the Geological Survey of our Mines Department. He next founded a new serial "The Records of the Geological Survey," and assisted to place our knowledge of the geological formations of the State on a firmer basis. Taking for his special subject the fossils of the older strata, he published numerous memoirs on that topic. On the retirement of Dr. Ramsay, in 1895, Mr. Etheridge received the appointment of Director of the Australian Museum. He threw his usual vigour into his new occupation. During the twenty-five years of his administration the institution has been greatly enlarged, the collections renovated, enriched and better displayed, and an excellent system of descriptive labels arranged. Under his guidance was initiated the serial production, "The Records of the Australian Museum," and a number of memoirs were produced, dealing with the fauna of this

continent. Other educational efforts were the delivery of popular science lectures and the explanation of scientific problems to visitors and correspondents.

In later life he gradually enlarged his interest from palæontology to ethnology. He wrote largely on the manners and customs, weapons, utensils, etc., of the Australian aborigines, and inaugurated the present magnificent display of native work in the museum galleries. It was also chiefly through his efforts that the remarkably fine ethnological exhibits from the Pacific Islands were gathered together. His efforts to advance Australian science were recognised by those best qualified to express appreciation. The Royal Society of New South Wales voted him the Clarke Memorial Medal in 1895, and the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science bestowed on him, in 1911, the Mueller Memorial Medal. Numerous species in animals, both fossil and recent, have been named in his honour. One of the highest peaks of the Kosciusko Plateau and a glacier in Antarctica have been called after him.

Mr. Etheridge was of such a retiring disposition that he could seldom be induced to take part in any social or even scientific gathering, and he was specially averse to publicity of any kind; otherwise, his name would have been a household word throughout Australasia. He literally lived in his work, and he died in it, according to his wish. He has departed this life with his work well done, a true and faithful servant who has deserved well of his country, and of the scientific world at large. His work is monumental and will remain a perpetual help and inspiration. His two sons survive him.

EDWARD NOYES, who joined this Society in 1893, was a son of the late Rev. Thomas Edward Noyes. He was born at Creton, Northampton in 1859, and died at Medlow on

5th March, 1920. He came to Australia about thirty-four years ago, and in conjunction with his brother, Mr. Henry Noyes, founded the firm of Noyes Brothers in Sydney in 1888, and became the first governing director, which position he held up to the time of his death. He was also a director of Noyes Brothers (Melbourne) Proprietary, Ltd. The late Mr. Noyes was always actively interested in engineering, particularly the electrical branch of it. He carried out numerous important contracts, including many for the Sydney electric tramways. For several years he was a member of the council of the Electrical Association of New South Wales, and was a vice-president in 1906-7. He had been an Associate of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (London) since 1902, and of the Institution of Civil Engineers (London) since 1905. He was also well-known in New Zealand, where he carried out several important contracts, including the installation of the Dunedin electric tramways. Mr. Noyes has left a widow, but no family.

WALTER W. J. O'REILLY, M.D., Ch.M., M.R.C.S., had been a member of this Society for forty-four years having joined in 1875, and was one of its oldest members. He was born in America and educated at Newington College, New South Wales, and Dublin University. At the time of his death at Pymble, on 3rd July, 1919, he was 72 years of age. Dr. O'Reilly practised his profession for some years in England before returning to Australia, and afterwards practised for forty-six years in Sydney. For a long period he was on the honorary staff of the Sydney Hospital, and latterly was on the consulting staff. He was president of the Pymble committee dealing with matters arising in connection with the war, while two of his sons served at the front. He leaves a widow, five sons and four daughters.

Professor Sir THOMAS PETER ANDERSON STUART passed away at Linstead, Double Bay, on February 29th, 1920,

after a lingering illness borne with heroic courage. About twelve months before his death he learnt that he was suffering from what was, in all probability, a fatal malady. He determined to continue his usual occupations. With wonderful bravery he delivered his usual lectures at the Medical School of the University and attended the numerous meetings demanded by his many activities. As the disease progressed, increasing weakness limited his work; but he struggled to carry out his daily tasks until the end of the year preceding his decease. Even when it taxed his strength to the utmost he was driven slowly in his car to the University and he walked painfully with tottering steps over the short distance to his room. He mounted to the lecture theatre by resting once or twice in chairs on the way. He lectured from an easy seat and used an electric torch of his own design to point out what he wished on the diagrams mounted on the screens beside him. His mental powers remained unimpaired to the last, though bodily enfeeblement made it impossible for him to continue for long discussion and argument with others. The steadfastness of purpose which was so conspicuous a feature of his character, was never revealed with greater nobility than in these last months of life.

Thomas Peter Anderson Stuart was born at Dumfries in the South of Scotland on June 20th, 1856. He received his early education at the well known Dumfries Academy. For almost a year he was at school in Wolfenbottel, Hanover, where he acquired some considerable knowledge of the German language. In 1875 he entered upon medical studies at the University of Edinburgh. Each year he travelled abroad to extend his opportunities for learning European languages. In this way he obtained an acquaintance with the French, Italian, and German tongues. In 1880 he graduated in medicine and obtained the Ettles Scholarship, the blue ribbon of the University of Edinburgh.

After his graduation he proceeded to Strasburg, where he spent two years in the scientific laboratories of Schmiedeberg, Hoppe Seyler, and Golz. While he carried on investigations upon the medicinal effects of the salts of nickel and cobalt under the direction of O. Schmiedeberg, the father of modern pharmacology, he acquired that interest in the action of drugs which he maintained throughout his life. With Hoppe Seyler he made some observations upon the formation of crystals of hæmoglobin. With Golz he found himself in harmony through their common sympathy with the mechanical conception and explanations of bodily functions.

Returning to Scotland he presented his Alma Mater with a thesis for which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine and a gold medal. He was appointed assistant to Professor William Rutherford in the department of physiology. He conducted the classes in practical histology and physiology. He also had the general direction of the laboratory. In 1883 he was successful in his application for the joint Chair of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Sydney. In the same year he came to Sydney and commenced his life's work in the cause of medical education in New South Wales. He was elected Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, a position that he held for thirty seven years.

He was elected a member of this Society in 1883. In 1885 he was a member of the committee of the Medical Section of the Society, and in 1890 and 1891 he was chairman of the Section. In 1889 he was elected to the Council of the Society and retained his seat until 1902. In 1892 he served as Hon. Secretary, and in 1893 he was chosen to be President. From 1894 to 1899 he was one of the Vice-Presidents. In 1906 he was again elected President, and later served for two years as a Vice-President. In 1915 and 1916 he was chosen as Chairman of the newly formed

Section of Public Health and Kindred Sciences. Sir Thomas took much interest in the Society and was ever ready to advance its interests.

The organization of medical education in New South Wales was the chief aim of his life in Australia. He built up the Medical School of the University and he developed the clinical resources of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Medical training commenced in 1883 with four students in a cottage. In 1887 he supervised the preparation of the plans of the Old Medical School, a magnificent building of Gothic design, which cost more than £80,000. Despite ridicule and criticism this edifice was completed in 1889. Before twenty years had elapsed, it had to be enlarged. Despite the addition of two massive wings the building was found too small for the thousand medical students who attended it in the year of his death. Thomas Anderson Stuart recognised clearly the growth of New South Wales, a development which has not ceased though many cry to-day that there is no need to extend the over crowded Medical School. At first he had charge of the instruction in anatomy and physiology. In 1889 the department of anatomy was placed under a separate teacher, and in 1918 the department of pharmacology was formed. From 1903 pharmacology had been taught under his general direction. In 1883 he joined the Board of Directors of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. In 1890 he became Honorary Secretary and in the same year Chairman of the Board of Directors, a position he retained until his death. He worked with ceaseless energy to make the hospital a pattern of what such an institution should be. His warm support led to the erection of the Queen Victoria Memorial Pavilions.

The improvement of the public health was another field to which he devoted much attention. From 1892 to 1896 he was President of the Board of Health, and remained a member until his death. He took an active share in inaugurating the School of Tropical Medicine in Townsville.

The transport of the sick and the care of the blind occupied part of his time for many years. In 1914 he received the honour of knighthood in recognition of his many public benefactions. His scientific activities were numerous in his early years. He had a keen insight into mechanical processes. He studied with great care the act of swallowing and contributed a number of original observations to the elucidation of this complicated movement. Particularly he described the position of the epiglottis and the movement of the larynx. He made some investigations concerning the accommodation of the eye and the structure and arrangement of the suspensory ligaments of the lens of the eye. He devoted much attention to the study of the voice. For many years he tried to improve his lectures by seeking for new models to enforce the teaching of his lectures. He showed such skill in his designs that a mere glance served in most cases to recognize the principle of mechanics that was illustrated. Future generations will bear testimony to the statesman's grasp of education that he possessed.

FREDERICK WILLIAM WEBB, C.M.G., was born in Sydney on 20th February, 1837, and died on 17th July, 1919, at Balgowlah, near Manly, at the age of 82 years. He was the only son of the late John Webb of H.M. Commissariat Department, and was elected a member of this Society in 1897. In 1853 he accepted employment in the Post Office, and remained there for six years. On April 19th, 1860, he obtained the position of Clerk in Charge of Parliamentary Papers in the Legislative Assembly, and from that time, as vacancies occurred, he received the promotion to which he was entitled. In 1877 he was appointed Acting Clerk of the Assembly during the absence of Mr. Stephen W. Jones, and filled that position again in 1886 in similar circumstances. On the retirement of Mr. Jones in 1888, under the provisions of the Civil Service Act, Mr. Webb received his commission as Clerk of the Assembly, and held that

position till he retired in February 1904. When the Australasian National Convention assembled in Sydney in March 1891, Mr. Webb was unanimously elected its clerk. In 1894 he was created C.M.G. He is survived by his widow, one son and one daughter.

CHARLES SAVILL WILLIS, M.B., Ch.M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., was born at Parramatta on 5th December, 1871, and died from the effects of pneumonic influenza, at Neutral Bay, on 23rd June, 1919. He joined this Society in 1908. After some years private practice in Queensland, he decided to study the science of public health and took up his residence in England, studying there at the University of Cambridge. Having secured the diploma of public health at Cambridge, and being appointed a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, he returned to Sydney, and entered the Public Health Department of the Government of New South Wales, where he rendered efficient service, being recognised as an officer of sound progressive views. Six years ago, when it was decided to develop and extend the medical service of the Education Department, Dr. Savill Willis was asked to undertake the work. The task proved one for which he was pre-eminently fitted, and, with judgment and organization, he established a State medical service in connection with the Public Schools in New South Wales. The system aims at securing the medical and dental inspection of every pupil of every Public School in the State at least once every three years, and more frequently in the metropolitan area. Specially good results have been attained by the system of dental clinics inaugurated by Dr. Savill Willis in connection with the Sydney Dental Hospital. Dr. Savill Willis made his last public appearance at the New South Wales Dental Congress less than a fortnight before his death, when he gave an interesting lecture on the subject of school clinics, and outlined new features, to be introduced into his Department's work in the near future. He leaves a widow but no family.



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