

The Law Convention 1961

The 1961 Convention of the Law Council of Australia was held in Sydney between 5th and 11th July. As noted in the last issue of the "Gazette", it was attended by the Rt. Hon. *Lord Parker of Waddington*, Lord Chief Justice of England; the Hon. *Earl Warren*, Chief Justice of the United States of America; and *Shri A. K. Sen*, Law Minister of India, and their respective wives. The number of members of the profession who attended the Convention was in the vicinity of seven hundred and fifty—and this figure included twelve New Zealanders, of whom the Solicitor-General for New Zealand (*Mr. H. R. C. Wild, Q.C.*) was one.

It is fair to say that the Convention was very successful, although some criticisms could undoubtedly be levelled at particular aspects. For example the mixture of speeches with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra was not, in retrospect, a satisfactory idea. All the social functions went off well and attracted large attendances.

The most important part of any Convention, however, is the legal discussion which takes place. At this Convention more time than at any previous Convention was devoted to exposition, and commentary occupied both morning and afternoon; the August 1961 issue of "The Australian Law Journal" gives a good indication of the length of the papers and the comments upon them.

In addition, for the first time at a Law Council Convention, seminars upon matters of immediate practical importance to practitioners were held. On two afternoons, two such seminars were held simultaneously with the continuation of discussion on the main papers, and in every case, the attendance was substantial, indicating the interest felt by practitioners in this type of discussion, at any rate if the subjects are well chosen. Equally important with the interest created by seminars, is the fact that, as they are conducted in more intimate surroundings and are upon subject-matters with which practitioners are more familiar, they give the average practitioner an opportunity to take an actual part in the proceedings of the Convention which is not really available in the discussion of the main papers.

It may be desirable to extend this type of discussion at future Conventions.

During the Convention, on Sunday, 9th July, the President and members of the Bar Council and their wives entertained visiting Judges and members of the Bar and their wives to lunch at the Cabbage Tree Club at Palm Beach. The day was beautifully fine and the total attendance was about 100.

The next Law Council Convention will be held in Hobart from the 19th to 26th January, 1963. Arrangements are in train to arrange transport and accommodation during the period of the Convention, but those who wish to extend their stay are advised to make early bookings as January is the height of the Tasmanian Tourist Season.

Commonwealth Law Conference 1965

The Law Council of Australia has announced that the next Commonwealth Law Conference will be held in Sydney in August 1965. It is understood that preliminary arrangements have been made for the use of the Sydney Opera House for a number of the functions which will be held in connection with the conference.

The Medico-Legal Society of New South Wales

The Medico-Legal Society of New South Wales was re-formed in 1960 after having been dormant for a number of years. The first meeting of the revived Society was held on 23rd November, 1960. Prior to this a Provisional Committee was held under the Presidency of the Honourable Mr. Justice Else-Mitchell. The other members of the Provisional Committee were as follows:—

Vice-Presidents: Hicks, Q.C., and Dr. W. Scott Charlton.

Hon. Secretaries: I. F. Sheppard and Dr. Hugh Hunter.

Hon. Treasurer: B. R. Jones, Solicitor.

Committee: Larkins, Q.C., Lusher and Drs. C. G. Macdonald, K. B. Noad, W. L. Calov, and R. R. Winton.

The subject discussed at the inaugural meeting was "Pain Real and Pain Unreal". Papers were presented by Dr. W. Scott Charlton and Hicks, Q.C.

During 1961, five meetings of the Society have been held. The first of these was held on 1st February, 1961, when the subject was "The Assessment of Claims of Amnesia in Major Crime". The Committee was fortunate in having at this meeting Desmond Curran, Esq., the Senior Psychiatrist at St. George's Hospital, London. Dr. Curran's address was all the more interesting because he had seen the acid bath murderer Heath and Christie who had apparently killed at least eight women. The legal paper on the same subject was presented by Davoren, Q.C.

At the meeting of the Society held on 12th April, 1961, Larkins, Q.C., and Dr. W. L. Calov, presented papers on "The Province of the Medical Witness".

On Saturday, 17th June, 1961, the Society held the First Annual General Meeting since its revival which was followed by a Dinner at the University Club. At the Annual General Meeting the members of the Provisional Committee were elected to the offices which they had provisionally held up to that time. More than sixty members attended the Dinner at which Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., was guest of honour. Sir Douglas Miller proposed the health of the Legal profession, and Meares, Q.C., that of the Medical profession.

At the meeting of the Society, which was held on 30th August, 1961, Dr. C. C. McKellar and Mr. J. R. Broadbent presented papers on the subject "The Lawyers' Privilege and Should the Doctor Tell".

On 8th November, 1961, Professor W. H. Trethowan who up till now has been the Professor of Psychiatry at the Sydney University, presented a paper on the subject "A Psychiatrist Looks at Compensation Neurosis". Professor Trethowan is to leave Australia shortly to take up the position of Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Birmingham.

In due course it is intended to publish and distribute amongst members copies of the papers which have been presented. The distribution of these papers will be included in members' subscriptions.

Members of the Bar are invited to join the Society. The subscription is £2 2s. 0d. per year and applications may be obtained from the Registrar or I. F. Sheppard.