UNIVERSITY HONOR

Sir Ronald Fisher and Dr. Hedley Marston arrive at the Bonython Hall yesterday to receive their honorary degrees as Doctors of Science. Story Page 5.

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TWO SCIENTISTS HONORED

Sir Ronald Fisher and Dr. Hedley Marston, two of the world's leading scientists, were honored by the University of Adelaide at a ceremony in the Bonython Hall yesterday afternoon.

The two scientists were presented to the University Chancellor (Sir Mellis Napier) for the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (ad eundem gradum) by the Dean of the Faculty of Science (Professor D. O. Jordan).

Sir Ronald Fisher is president of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University.

Professor Jordan said that up to Sir Ronald Fisher's time, if it had been wished to compare the yields of six different varieties of wheat, a selected field would have been divided into six equal blocks, one for each variety.

Sir Ronald Fisher had pointed out that this ignored the differences of soil fertility at different parts of the field.

Solution

His solution was further to subdivide each original block into smaller plots and assign to each, in random fashion, a particular variety of wheat.

Professor Jordan said Sir Ronald Fisher had been rightly described as the father of modern statistics.

Sir Ronald Fisher had made outstanding contributions in the fields of statistics and genetics.

Dr. Marston is Chief of the CSIRO division of biochemistry and nutrition.

Professor Jordan said Dr. Marston had made it possible for sheep to live on pastures which, had they remained untreated, would not have been capable of supporting a single sheep.

Transformation

South-east of Adelaide there was a vast tract of country known until recently as the 90-mile desert, now called Coonalpyn Downs.

Transformation of this area had been brought about by the discovery by Dr. Marston for the need in the diet of the sheep of minute quantities of certain metals.

Of the various metals, the most important was cobalt.

Dr. Marston, however, had concerned himself not only with problems of the nutrition of sheep, but also with the problems associated with wool production and the quality of fleeces.

Dr. Marston has received high honors throughout the world.

Honor

Welcoming Sir Ronald Fisher after the degree of Doctor of Science had been formally conferred on him, Sir Mellis Napier said:—"We realise that in accepting this honor Sir Ronald Fisher is conferring honor on this university."

In his address to the congregation, Dr. Marston said that the need for suitably - trained scientific and technical personnel had created a major and revolutionary problem for universities.

Among the activities stimulated principally by the unsettled state now prevailing in world affairs, there was the sudden realisation that both our economic future and our defence would depend on highly developed technical knowledge.

Besides the greatly enhanced call for research scientists, a virtual state of emergency now demanded that provision be made for more and more scientists and technologists to be trained in a vast range of new technical skills.

Learning

These extended from biochemical engineering to those necessary to programme a computor, or design a nuclear-reactor, all of which called for a greater depth of scientific learning than hitherto considered necessary in applied arts.

"The problems that must be faced, and faced at once before it is too late, are of very grave moment to the future of universities, and so to the physical, intellectual and moral progress of mankind," Dr. Marston said.