UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



DOCTOR OF MEDICINE "HONORIS CAUSA"

DR. LESLIE JOHN JARVIS NYE

MR. DEPUTY CHANCELLOR,

THE PROFESSION AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IS CONTINUALLY
BEING NOURISHED BY THE INFLUENCE OF MEN OF UNUSUAL ENERGY AND
RARE IMAGINATIVE CAPACITY. SUCH A MAN IS LESLIE JOHN JARVIS
NYE COMMANDER OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH
EMPIRE, GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, A FOUNDATION
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, AND
A FORMER MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF THIS UNIVERSITY. IT IS
REGRETTABLE THAT DR. NYE IS NOT ABLE TO BE PRESENT TONIGHT, FOR
WE SHOULD HAVE WISHED YOU TO CONFER ON HIM IN PERSON THE DEGREE
OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE 'HONORIS CAUSA'.

DR. NYE'S LIFE HAS BEEN CEASELESSLY ACTIVE AND FRUITFUL,

DEDICATED BOTH TO HUMANITY AT LARGE AND TO HIS PROFESSION.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER GRADUATING IN MEDICINE IN 1914 HE SERVED

IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR, RETURNING IN 1917 IN POOR HEALTH

AFTER BEING WOUNDED AND GASSED ON FLANDERS FIELDS. FOR ABOUT

EIGHT YEARS, WHILST RECUTERATING HIS HEALTH, HE PRACTICED ON

THE ATHERTON TABLELAND; AND SINCE 1926 HE HAS BEEN A LEADING

FIGURE IN THE MEDICAL WORLD OF BRISBANE.

IN THE LAST DECADE OF THE 19TH CENTURY AND IN THE EARLY
DECADES OF THIS CENTURY, QUEENSLAND ACQUIRED SOME INTERNATIONAL
NOTORIETY BECAUSE OF THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF LEAD POISONING AMONG
CHILDREN. IN THE TWENTIES JARVIS NYE, AN ASTUTE OBSERVER,
NOTED THAT QUEENSLAND HAD A HIGH DEATH RATE FROM NEPHRITIS
AMONG YOUNG ADULTS. VARIOUS FACTORS LED HIM TO ASSOCIATE THIS
WITH LEAD POISONING IN CHILDHOOD. HIS MONOGRAPH ON THIS SUBJECT
ATTRACTED INTERNATIONAL INTEREST AND A DEAL OF CONTROVERSY.

)R

ΣE

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



2

SUBSEQUENT EVIDENCE OF A MORE RECENT AND SOPHISTICATED KIND APPEARS TO LEND SUPPORT TO HIS HYPOTHESIS.

IN REGARD TO THE STYLE OF PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, NYE WAS A FAR-SIGHTED AND IMAGINATIVE INNOVATOR, WHOSE VIEWS WERE SIGNIFICANTLY AHEAD OF HIS TIME. EVEN IN HIS ATHERTON DAYS HE WAS USING X-RAY DIAGNOSIS, PATHOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND BLOOD TRANSFUSION TO AN EXTENT THEN CONSIDERED TO BE BOLD AND ADVANCED. A VISIT TO THE MAYOR CLINIC HAD CONVINED HIM THAT THE MEDICINE OF THE FUTURE COULD BE MOST EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY PRACTICED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TEAMS OF DOCTORS, EACH BRINGING TO THE COOPERATIVE EFFORT HIS OWN PARTICULAR EXPERTISE. HE PUT HIS IDEAS INTO EFFECT BY ESTABLISHING SUCH A CLINIC IN BRISBANE, AND IN DOING SO HE DISPLAYED NO LITTLE COURAGE, FOR HE WAS NOT WITHOUT CRITICS WITHIN THE PROFESSION. IN FACT IT IS THIS QUIET DETERMINED COURAGE IN FACE OF OPPOSITION WHICH HAS MADE HIM A SUBJECT OR OUR RESPECT AND ADMIRATION. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MOTIVATED BY GREAT INTELLECTUAL INTEGRITY. LATER, IN 1964 IN HIS JACKSON LECTURE HE ADUMBRATED CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM OF MEDICAL CARE IN THE COMMUNITY REMARKABLY LIKE THOSE WHICH ARE CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE MOST ADVANCED COUNTRIES, CHANGES WHICH EMBRACE THE CONCEPT OF GROUP PRACTICE AND CLOSER COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL HEALTH WORKERS.

THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE DR. NYE HAS POURED HIS ENERGY OF

WHICH HE HAS SEEMED TO POSSESS A SUPERABUNDANCE, AND HIS

FINANCIAL RESOURCES INTO A WIDE VARIETY OF SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY

ACTIVITIES. AS A SENATOR HE WAS ACTIVE IN PRESERVING THE

INTEGRITY OF OUR GREAT COURT AND RETAINING AND LANDSCAPING OUR

LAKE. ROTARY, IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, LANGUAGE

REFORM, RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE, HARMONIOUS RACIAL RELATIONSHIPS:

ed

)R

CEL

GIS

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



3

THOSE ARE BUT A FEW OF THE IDEALISTIC AND HUMANITARIAN CAUSES
THAT HE HAS ESPOUSED WITH ENTHUSIASM IN HIS DAY.

HIS ZEAL FOR MEDICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE, EVEN WHEN IT
PRODUCED CONCEPTS WHICH NOT ALL OF US COULD FOLLOW, HAS
ENDEARED HIM TO MANY FRIENDS AND HAS BEEN A LIGHT TO GUIDE
MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

A SCHOLAR OF ABILITY, A DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIAN,

POSSESSED OF AN UNUSUALLY PRESCIENT INTELLECT AND GENEROUS

AND COURAGEOUS MIND, DR. NYE IS ALTOGETHER WORTHY OF THE

HONOUR WHICH THIS UNIVERSITY WISHES TO CONFER ON HIM.

THE SENATE, SIR, HAS RESOLVED THAT LESLIE JOHN JARVIS

NYE, COMMANDER OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH

EMPIRE, BACHELOR OF MEDICINE, MASTER OF SURGERY, FELLOW OF THE

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, FELLOW OF THE ROYAL

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA, BE ADMITTED TO THE DEGREE

OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE 'HONORIS CAUSA' OF THIS UNIVERSITY, AND

I INVITE YOU TO SO ADMIT HIM."

The Deputy Chancellor says:

BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AND UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, I ADMIT LESLIE JOHN JARVIS NYE TO THE RANK AND PRIVIEEGES OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE 'HONORIS CAUSA' IN THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND.

)R

 ed

CEL

GIS7