

DR. BRUNO BREYER

A Cosmopolitan Australian

Few men would be able to turn the cards on a three-card trickster in the way Dr. Bruno Breyer once did. But then few people have made a hobby of magic.

DURING his student days in Germany he strolled into a restaurant and found that two fellow-students had just been fleeced by a three-card man.

He joined the party and proceeded to get back everything his friends had lost. The trickster was so incensed at being a biter bitten that he accused Bruno Breyer of cheating.

Breyer invited him to call a policeman. That settled the argument.

Dr. Breyer has such competence in his hobby that he belongs to the Magic Club of Germany, membership of which was sought, pre-war, by outstanding professional and amateur magicians all over the world.

But scientific research is the real life interest of Dr. Bruno Breyer.

He is a Doctor of Chemistry of Bonn University, a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Padua (Italy), Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, Member of Trinity College, Cambridge, and a Fellow of the Australian Chemical Institute.

As a scientist he has a wide range of accomplishment and a growing international reputation.

From 1919 to 1928 he studied chemistry in Vienna, Leipzig, Berlin, and Bonn.

From 1929 to 1931 he was assistant lecturer in Chemistry at Bonn and an Assistant Manager with the huge I. G. Farbenindustrie, working on artificial resins, lacquers, dye-stuffs, and drugs.

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stuffs, and drugs.

He went back to Bonn to study Medicine, not to become a practitioner, but to overcome the borderline problems between Chemistry and Medicine. Medicine took him from Bonn to Zagreb (Yugoslavia) and finally to Padua.

New Anaesthetics

In 1938 Dr. Breyer was doing research in Chemistry and Physics at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). There he developed new types of local anaesthetics and later worked for the Swiss Cancer Research Society on cancer irradiation.

When war broke out he was in England, doing research at Cambridge. As a member of the war research team of the B.M.A. he worked on gas gangrene. He developed a material which rendered decontamination suits of A.R.P. teams impervious to mustard gas.

In 1942 Dr. Bruno Breyer came to Australia, was granted a Commonwealth Research Fellowship at Sydney University and in 1946 was appointed Lecturer in Agricultural Chemistry there a position he still

pointed Lecturer in Agricultural Chemistry there, a position he still holds.

Working with Dr. Albert, newly-appointed Professor of Medical Chemistry of the National University, Canberra, he helped to develop the disinfectant acra-flavine, which proved so valuable during the war and which is an old friend of all ex-servicemen.

With Viennese Dr. F. Gutman, now Research Officer in Di-electrics at the University of Technology, Dr. Breyer developed an electrical method of analysis which, it is expected, will do away with present hit-or-miss experiments with animals to test the efficacy of anti-toxins. It may also lead to an understanding of the action that takes place in the blood stream when a person is immunised.

With Dr. Gutman he also developed the first Australian apparatus to measure acidity or alkalinity of a solution. This instrument, which is important in many industries, is now

being made completely in Australia and is already an export to New Zealand. There have also been inquiries for it from India.

In 1947 the Faraday Society recognised the work of Drs. Breyer and Gutman by inviting them to contribute a paper for Annual Conference in Manchester, a conference to which only 30 scientists throughout the world were invited. Unfortunately they were unable to attend, but their paper was read and published in the Society's journal.

Working on a grant from the Rural Bank of N.S.W., Dr. Breyer and a team of co-workers at the Sydney University have developed a new and rapid method of detecting infestation in wheat silos.

A worker needs no special skill to use it, and it will show instantly

whether or not certain bacteria are attacking the grain.

Dr. Breyer is also working on potato virus diseases to find a way of detecting quickly when potatoes, particularly seed, are infected.

Besides being a scientist when serious, and a magician in his lighter

serious, and a magician in his lighter moments, Dr. Breyer, like so many Europeans, is a linguist!

He reads in six languages, has written and published scientific works in four. Since he arrived in Australia in 1942 he has written 13 papers in English. It is not known whether he has yet become adjectively proficient in Australian.

Since he came to Australia he has refused an enticing offer from the Warner Laboratories, of U.S.A. That is testimony to his love for Australia. He is deeply appreciative of both the natural beauty of the scene and the friendliness of the people. Incidentally, he regards Sydney as the most beautiful city in the world, and he has seen many. Possibly, of course, he has not yet seen Melbourne.

Dr. Bruno Breyer, tall and sturdily-built, is essentially the scientist, somewhat retiring, soft-voiced, calm-mannered, and having an air of quiet efficiency.

Apart from his flippant hobby of

magic he has a serious hobby of photography, and, all in all, he is so immersed in science that it might almost be described as a third hobby, a super-serious one.

His people have been in Yugoslavia for 300 years, but owing to his mother being on a visit to Zabreh he was born in Moravia. He is now a naturalised Australian, a cosmopolitan one.

Member Of The Magic Club



