

PIONEER OF X-RAYS. TRIBUTE TO DR. HANCOCK.

Memorial Window at University.

Work will be commenced as early as possible in the preparation of a memorial window, in honour of the late Dr. W. J. Hancock, for erection in the foyer of Winthrop Hall, at the University of Western Australia at Crawley. A competition was conducted for a suitable design for the memorial, and of the 10 designs submitted that of Brooks, Robinson Pty., Ltd., of Melbourne, was selected. The University Senate has approved of the design selected.

The late Dr. W. J. Hancock was closely connected with the scientific and public life of the State for over 40 years. He died abroad on August 26, 1931, at the age of 68 years. An early worker in radiology, Dr. Hancock contracted serious disabilities, which ultimately deprived him of the use of the fingers of one hand and greatly impeded the use of the fingers of his other hand. He has been described as "a martyr to the development of X-rays."

After studying engineering at the University of Glasgow, he came to Western Australia in 1855. He entered the public service of the colony and was intimately connected with the construction and establishment of the first Perth-Fremantle telephone exchange system. For a time he was Superintendent of Telegraphs, and later, as Government Electrical Engineer, he designed and carried out the electrical equipment of the Fremantle and Bunbury harbours. After the discovery of X-rays by Rontgen in 1895, Dr. Hancock conducted radiological research work in this State. For over 20 years he was honorary radiologist to the Perth Hospital, and during the war he directed, also in an honorary capacity, the X-ray work at the Base Hospital at Fremantle. In recognition of his contributions to science Dr. Hancock received the first Kelvin Medal awarded by the Royal Society of Western Australia, while the University Senate, of which he was a member for many years, conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

The movement to establish a memorial to the late Dr. Hancock was organised by Associate-Professor Fraenkel, and started with the Engineers' Club of the University. The co-operation of the West Australian branch of the British Medical Association was secured and other organisations which assisted to build up a memorial fund were the West Australian section of the Institution of Engineers, the Faculty of Engineering of the University, and the Royal Society. A prize of £20 was offered for a suitable design, and the winning design was selected on the advice of Professor Leslie Wilkinson, Professor of Architecture of the University of Sydney.

The successful design, a reproduction of which is published in this issue, incor-

porates the symbols of science, the lamp of learning, the serpent of healing, a crown of honour, and a scroll with the words, "Greater Love Hath No Man." The emblems have received heraldic treatment. A feature of the design is the late Dr. Hancock's crest at the bottom—a cock and an Irish shamrock—and the motto, "Vincit Amor Patriae" (Love of Country Prevails).

The Vice-Chancellor of the University (Professor H. E. Whitfeld) said yesterday that the inscription had not yet been decided upon, but it was expected that it would be on the following lines:—"In Honour of William John Hancock, a Pioneer of Radiology in Western Australia."