

REGISTER, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1881.

stress should be laid upon the disadvantages under which they have in the past laboured. Not only has their action been hampered by the want of proper classrooms and appliances, but the constitution of the University has had a very circumscribing effect upon their operations. In both these respects an important change has now been wrought, and the public may reasonably expect that for the future matters will wear a very different aspect. Not only have new buildings been provided, but authority has been obtained to grant degrees in Science, Law, and Medicine. How best to take advantage of these facilities, and to utilize these privileges, is a matter that has for some time been engaging the earnest attention of the Council. For weeks past they have been deliberating upon the most effectual means of popularizing the University, and no doubt the disclosure of the fact that the Bachelor of Arts course is not attracting the number of students that it was expected to draw will stimulate the efforts they have been making towards founding professional courses. Perhaps it is to this new departure more than to anything else that the public may look for the long-hoped-for emergence of the institution from its state of comparative obscurity. The present age is too utilitarian to be satisfied with learning for its own sake. Most parents who desire to give their sons a good education like to see them being at the same time prepared for entering upon a profession. This is much more universally true in Australia than in Great Britain, inasmuch as all the instincts of the colonial are in favour of the practical and immediately useful. The Council are therefore justified in expecting that if schools of law and medicine be inaugurated new life will be imparted to the University, and the number of its students will be largely increased. In the case of medicine a modest commencement has been made by the appointment of a competent lecturer on the subject of physiology, and a similar course is to be taken with respect to the law as soon as circumstances will allow of this being done. The full intentions of the Council, however, cannot be carried out for months, for, as a preliminary to the appointment of a Professor, the consent of Sir W. W. Hughes to an alteration in the object of his endowment will have to be obtained. Delay in this matter we do not regard as a disadvantage, but it would be highly advisable to commence as soon as possible the instruction of classes by means of lectures, so that those young men who are qualifying themselves to be legal practitioners may

have early advantage of a University course.

We are glad to know that the wishes of the Council in this matter have the full sympathy of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the Law Society, and that when arrangements have been completed it is probable that not less than fifty students will be continuously connected with the University classes. If the Council could devise some plan by which they might secure the services of one or two more lecturers on professional subjects for next year they would be doing a service in more ways than one; for it is certain that before the end of the year 1882 the public will expect to see a larger amount of work done, and a greater number of successful passes at the examinations than have been recorded during the present year. The fact that the University has done good service in helping to raise the standard of education in the colony is greatly in its favour, but if it is to maintain its hold upon the people and be recognised as an institution of national value it is necessary that the tangible results of its operations should be on a more enlarged scale than heretofore.

The Advertiser

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1881.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA has never been renowned for her love for science, nor particularly liberal in the aid she has afforded in its cultivation. Almost all that she has undertaken in this direction has been of a strictly utilitarian character and the resources of the public purse, as far as they go in matters scientific, are voted with the sole object of getting a *quid pro quo* in some commercial shape or other. The prosecution of scientific discovery by the skilled officers of the Government is rather connived at than recognised as a branch of official duty. Whatever is done is done on a small scale, because votes for "contingencies" are rarely very large, and special votes for scientific investigations are not heard of. Mr. Todd is doubtless more fortunately circumstanced in this respect than any other officer in the service of the public. His principal occupation of controlling and regulating the telegraphic communication between the various parts of the colony and the rest of the world give him excellent opportunities for experimentalising, without having his expenditure too narrowly criticised by the Audit Office. That gentleman is reported to have made some discoveries in electrical science and some useful inventions of electrical apparatus. The colony gets the benefit of both as far as they are