

Register March 30th 1886

S. A. COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSOCIATION. — A meeting of the Committee of Management of the South Australian Commercial Travellers' Association, Incorporated, was held at Beach's Rooms on Saturday last, 27th inst. The President (Mr. G. C. Knight) occupied the chair. The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. A. Mackie) produced a financial statement showing funds at date £255 0s. 2d.; accounts passed for payment, £7 2s. 9d. The Secretary (Mr. C. Aubrey) reported that four persons were nominated for membership. The names of members who had refused to pay their arrears were ordered to be erased from the roll of membership. The list of complaints previously referred to *re* certain hotels was again dealt with. The President and Secretary reported the result of their interview with the member that the committee had resolved to relieve, and that £10 had been granted him. A discussion ensued *re* certain railway charges deemed excessive, and after the subject had been thoroughly ventilated it was resolved that a report be brought up at next meeting. Letter received from the Registrar of the University of Adelaide *re* former correspondence to him; also Registrar's report *re* Association's scholar, Robert Matthew Bertram, and it was resolved that the Secretary be instructed to acknowledge receipt of the letter addressed to the committee by the Registrar of the University regarding the Association's Scholarship, and to express its regret that no reference is made to the Association's correspondence in the published report of the Council's proceedings.

Register March 31st 1886.

MR. D'ARENBERG AND THE LAW EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—The Faculty of Laws and the Law Examiners have reason to be pleased with Mr. D'Arenberg's letter in your issue of the 26th. It is to be regretted that "Nunc Dimittis" feels keenly the injustice imputed in Mr. D'Arenberg's letter. With regard to the letter signed "Outsider," the *nom de plume* is no doubt explanatory of the letter. I have carefully perused the questions set at the recent law examinations, and am sure no exception can be taken to them. Having passed both intermediate and final examination at the Supreme Court, I am at liberty to say that one of the best things that ever happened to the profession is the abolition of that absurd system of examination in connection with the Supreme Court and the founding of the Law School in our University.

I am, Sir, &c.,

LL. B., ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

Adelaide, March 30,

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THE LAW EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Your correspondent "LL.B., Adelaide University" seems justly proud of his degree, and smilingly looks down from his superior height on the examination at the Supreme Court, which he describes as "an absurd system of examination." Such an assertion might or might not have greater weight if he had appended his name. But such a high authority ought to have remembered that it is one thing to satisfy himself, another to satisfy the examiner. And if my surmise be correct, "LL.B., Adelaide University" knows of this, having experienced the bitter truth once at any rate before attaining his present height.

I am, Sir, &c.,

D. C. SCOTT.

Adelaide, March 31.

Register April 9th 1886

LECTURE ON MATERIA MEDICA.—We learn that the Lecturership on Materia Medica in the University has been conferred by the Council on Dr. W. L. Cleland, Resident Medical Officer at the Parkside Lunatic Asylum. The office is tenable for three years, and the salary attached is £60 per annum. As Dr. Cleland is a Civil servant, it must have been necessary for him to receive the sanction of the Government before he applied for the Lecturership, and we may presume that the required sanction was forthcoming. The University is to be congratulated on having secured the services of so able a gentleman.

Register April 9th 1886.

OUR UNIVERSITY—ITS ABUSE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—The questions involved in the opening of the evening classes, or University night schools, are of sufficient importance to warrant my asking of you the favour of the publication of the annexed letter to the Public Treasurer and the few remarks which follow:—"South-terrace, March 9. To the Hon. S. Newland, Treasurer of South Australia. Sir—In the University Calendar of this year, under the heading 'Account of income and expenditure,' on page ccxiv., it is stated that a Government subsidy of £25 has been granted for 'Evening classes.' With much respect I beg to state that in my opinion such a grant is not warranted by the Act of Incorporation printed in the same Calendar and beginning on page 22. Nor is it reasonable or just that any money whatever should be given out of the public revenue of this colony to that object. 1. The University does not exist, and was not established for the purpose of teaching elementary arithmetic and the mere rudiments of Latin, French, &c., as was certainly done last year and as is proposed to be done this year. 2. A costly system of elementary education already exists in the country, and the teachers of the primary State schools and others, private teachers, are quite competent to do, without further cost to the country, what is attempted to be done in those evening classes. 3. The establishment of elementary night schools for adult persons by the Council of the University is an unnecessary interference with the profitable employment and means of livelihood of the owners of private schools, teachers, and tutors, such as no Government which has a due regard to the wellbeing of the people should sanction even in the most prosperous times, much less in these days of financial straits and depression. 4. The educational work carried on in the University is, or ought to be, with reference primarily to the conferring of degrees, but moneys given by charitable persons for the philanthropic instruction of poor persons who are deficient in the rudiments of knowledge cannot be honestly regarded as 'given for the purposes of the University' (see Calendar, p. 26), and such gifts cannot fairly be subsidized as 'for the purposes of the University' by a Government grant out of the general revenue. 5. The persons who have attended the evening classes are, however, persons who are for the most part in the receipt of good salaries, and not therefore fit objects of a special scheme of education for the maintenance of which the people of this country should be additionally taxed. I beg most respectfully to be informed if it be the intention of the Government to continue the subsidy for evening classes to the University—in that case you will please not to regard this letter as private, but allow me the liberty of publishing it in order to the creation if possible of a sound public opinion upon the matter. I have, &c., WILLIAM HOPKINS." To the above letter a reply was received from the

Hon. the Minister of Education to the effect that it is the intention of the Government to continue to subsidize the University for the evening classes, and that it was not deemed inconsistent with the above-mentioned Act to do so; but that letter I have either mislaid or by mistake destroyed, so that I am unable to quote it verbatim. The words of the Act of Incorporation, clause 15, referred to above are as follows:—"It shall be lawful for the Governor by warrant under his hand, addressed to the Public Treasurer of the Province, to direct to be issued and

paid out of the general revenue an annual grant equal to £5 per centum per annum on the said sum of £20,000 contributed by the said Walter Watson Hughes, and on such other moneys as may from time to time be given to and invested by the said body corporate upon trusts for the purposes of such University."

As I am writing for the public allow me space for a few words of explanation. All the Universities in which teaching is carried on do so, I believe, on the assumption that already the students have been so far educated as to be capable of receiving the higher instruction of University lecturers and Professors—in brief, the University takes up the work where the higher schools leave off; at least this is the basis laid down by the Adelaide University in its own Statutes on page 63 of the Calendar for this year. Under the heading "Of Matriculation and Degrees" it is said:—"There shall be a matriculation examination for all candidates who desire to become students of the University, and no candidate shall be permitted to matriculate who shall not have passed the matriculation examination . . . being a male . . . of the full age of 16 years . . . being a female . . . of the full age of 18 years." Matriculation is the starting point, it appears, of all the regular instruction given by the Professors and lecturers, and it seems to follow clearly that students of special subjects must join the classes existing for the benefit of matriculated students, and that all persons taught in the University should be tested at the so-called "ordinary" examinations, and not at the entrance or matriculation examination as has too often been done in the past