

Register April 1st 1885

UNIVERSITY CLASSES.—The Council of the University decided two rather important matters at the adjourned meeting on Tuesday. The first was in regard to evening classes, which are arranged in two groups, the first comprising those which will be preparatory to matriculation, and the second being for students who have already passed the matriculation examination in Latin. There will, for the present, be classes in Latin, mathematics, and geology, and the minimum age of entry will be 17. The classes for those who have passed in Latin should be of some service to those who desire to proceed with their B.A. course. To the average student who knows nothing of Greek the study of that language presents a very large field of labour, much more in fact than the majority of evening students could accomplish in one year. It seems, however, that arrangements have not been made for teaching Greek, so that the evening classes will only have a partial bearing on the first year's study for the B.A. degree. As regards the classes for preparation for matriculation, the private teachers look upon them as an undue exercise of competition with private enterprise. There is, no doubt, some force in this view of the matter. But the good of the students, and not that of the teachers, should be the primary concern. The second matter dealt with on Tuesday was the settlement of the vexed question of the matriculation examination for musical students. On that point a compromise has been made. As we pointed out on Tuesday morning, the hardest part of the regulation at first made was that no candidate for a musical degree could even begin his course without having passed the matriculation examination. It is now arranged that students can commence without matriculating, but that they must pass the examination before presenting themselves for their second year's examination in music. But the very reasonable concession made by Cambridge University of allowing, during the first four years or so, persons over a certain age to present themselves without matriculating has been denied. This is to be regretted. We cannot see what necessary bearing the study of Latin can have on the education of a musician.

The Advertiser

MONDAY, APRIL 6.

THE movement for the establishing of evening classes at the University seems likely to become fruitful in its results. In our advertising columns will be found an announcement of a programme of classes which have been arranged for the current year. Though only tentative and of limited extent, the scheme which is set before the public is both fuller and more varied than might have been expected. For this happy result the public is mainly indebted to Sir Thomas Elder, who not only expressed his approval of the proposal to extend the advantages of the University, but sent forthwith to the chancellor a cheque for £1,000 as an evidence of his good opinion. If we had had to wait till the entire sum, which it is hoped may be subscribed, is in the hands of the treasurer, it is not at all likely that any thing would have been done this year. The public may be ready in expressing its sympathy with any movement, but it requires a very strong inducement to move some of its members. The rich are by no means the most liberal. Other men among us may rival Sir Thomas Elder in the reputation that they possess for being encumbered with a superabundance of this world's goods, but he is allowed to win too easily in the race for the prize for unselfish generosity.

Having a thousand pounds in hand the council was bound to do something. This donation alone secured an annual income of £110, which was deemed sufficient to establish two lectureships independently of the fees. We learn that it is the intention of the council to extend these classes over the remainder of the academic year, and that the remuneration of the lecturers is to be at the rate of one guinea per lecture. There will thus be about fifty lectures in each class, and the expense of each class for which a tutor has to be provided will be about £50. In addition to the lecturers whom it might engage, the council has its own staff of professors to render assistance. The duties of the various chairs are not equal in the demands they make upon the learned gentlemen who occupy them, and in some cases left it open for the professors to express in a practical fashion their sympathy with this movement. Professor Tate appears in the advertisement as wishful to conduct a class in geology, and Professor Kelly in elementary Greek, while Professor Boulger, whose skill in philology has been made conspicuous in his many appearances before the public, has undertaken the modest but not easy task of conducting a class in elementary Latin. In addition to these classes the council have selected two other subjects on which to expend their first efforts in this effort to extend the benefits of the University. These are senior Latin, which has been entrusted to Mr. Byard, B.A., a graduate of Oxford; and mathematics, which has been placed under the charge of Mr. S. Churchward, B.A. An opinion has been freely expressed that it would have been better to commence with English literature, or political economy, or what is vaguely called "technical science," rather than with such recondite subjects as the dead languages or dry mathematics. The action of the council is not to be considered as slighting other themes but simply as showing what, in its opinion, are the best to begin with. If there had been more money subscribed a more liberal and varied programme might have been set before the public. If any of the youthful aspirants after legal honors wish to render more easy their

struggle over Roman law, or if any of the many promising young men who gained distinction at school wish to pursue their classical studies, the opportunity is now offered them. Greek is very much neglected in the midst of the practical tendencies of this age, and many a youth in after years has cause to regret that he has never learned even the rudiments of one of the finest languages ever spoken by human lips. To meet such, and we trust there may be ten such in this city, Professor Kelly's elementary Greek class has been announced. Mathematics is both practical and, for some minds, extremely fascinating, and we shall be very much surprised if the requisite ten be not forthcoming. Geology speaks for itself, and for students who wish to know something more of this interesting science the present affords a rare opportunity. Perhaps Professor Tate is the only man who really knows what this subject means in a new and curious country like the corner of the world which we inhabit. On an increased acquaintance with the geological structure of Australia may depend our common success in searching for minerals, in boring for water, in knowing what plants to cultivate, and such knowledge may prevent the wasting of much precious money, such as boring for coal among the tertiary sands of the Coorong.