

chief aim of a university to manufacture graduates, there would be irresistible force in such reasoning. Such arguments proceed, however, on a wrong basis. A university ought to be a place where the best teaching that is available on any subject is provided, and where any one may select his own course of study. In saying this we do not underrate the degrees of the university, nor do we advocate that the university shall not prescribe her course or courses of instruction. As Mr. Bryce says:—"Let her induce as many students as possible to follow these courses, and thereby obtain a complete and thorough training. The degrees and prizes will help to secure that. But let her not, therefore, reject the rest who have not the time or the means, the need or the opportunities to follow these regular courses, but who nevertheless come thirsting for knowledge and anxious to quaff it at the purest source. Place guards, if you like, at the doors of your examination halls, but let your lecture-rooms stand always open like the churches of Catholic Europe, so that thereby even the passing wayfarer may hear the voice and be drawn in." Two practical questions are sure to arise in the discussion of the matter this evening, and as the chancellor and the vice-chancellor and the warden of the senate are all put down for speeches, there is not much fear of them being overlooked. The first is whether any such number of students be willing to enrol themselves for these extra classes as will make it worth while to establish them. The second is, where is the money to come from? As to the first, we have no faith in any endeavor to prearrange a list of intending students. The young men and women who are interested in this matter will wish to know what classes are to be held, on what days and at what hours particular subjects will be dealt with, who will be the teachers, and what is the standard to be aimed at before they will give in their names in any considerable numbers. They cannot be expected to commit themselves to any scheme which is so vague and uncertain as that which is now before the public. It is surely sufficiently significant that two such bodies as the Collegiate Schools' Association and the Literary Societies' Union

should tell us so persistently that there is a general desire for higher educational facilities than exist at present. We need no further evidence of the need for this extension of our university system. In this case the ordinary law of supply and demand must be reversed. The supply will inevitably create the demand if, as commercial men would say, it is wisely placed on the market.

The question of cost is more difficult to deal with. The recently published balance-sheet of the University for 1884 will show that the margin of income over expenditure is very small. That small amount will be absorbed this year in completing the arrangements for the establishment of a medical school. Next year, perhaps, there may be something available for this new enterprise. In the meantime there is foreshadowed a scheme for collecting and presenting to the University a sum of money which will be sufficient for the purpose. If this can be accomplished it will be a notable fact in our social history. These are bad times for gathering money, but in so noble a cause no one need despair of success. All the money contributed will be worth 11 per cent. to the University; that is it may be invested at 6 per cent., and an additional 5 per cent. will be given by the Government. The promoters of the meeting talk of £17,000, and if that sum be

realised it will place an annual amount of £1,100 at the disposal of the council, but if only half that sum be collected there will be enough to make a commencement. The establishment of these classes need not involve any very heavy expenditure. They would be in the hands of lecturers who would be paid according to the work to be done. To be a lecturer would not take away a man from the ordinary duties of his profession, and the honor, if not the honorarium, would bring forth sufficient candidates for the position in most of the subjects for the council to make a good selection. We await with interest the discussion of the details of this scheme. That there are many and very serious difficulties to be overcome no one can deny, but there are no difficulties that may not be got over if the public and the council are all of one mind in resolving that the advantages of our university training shall be placed before the large mass of young men and women who are at present precluded from making use of them.

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## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LITERARY SOCIETIES' UNION.

### UNIVERSITY EVENING LECTURES.

A public meeting under the auspices of the Literary Societies' Union was held in Stow Lecture Hall on Thursday evening, March 5, to consider the establishment of evening lectures in connection with the Adelaide University. There were about 150 persons present. His Excellency the GOVERNOR presided, and in introducing the business of the meeting said — I understand that this movement originated in the desire of the young men forming the Literary Societies to endeavour to obtain the advantages of evening lectures at the University. These Societies numbered 26, and have a membership amounting to 1,500 at present. It is not surprising, and indeed it is exceedingly commendable, that these young men should be desirous, occupied as they are during the day at their businesses, to secure this great advantage of being able to at-

tend University lectures in the evening. This object is exceedingly laudable, and shows the desire of the members of the Societies to avail themselves of the educational advantages which such an establishment as the University offers to the public of this colony. I need hardly tell you how entirely my sympathies are with this movement—(applause)—and I trust that it may be in every sense of the word a success. It is sufficient for me to say that I desire to see this movement successfully carried out, and I shall be happy to pay my subscription when necessary for that purpose—(applause)—and I trust that the public of Adelaide, who are never backward in coming forward where money is wanted for desirable and worthy objects, will support this movement. I came away from home at some little inconvenience, as one of my guests—your late Governor, Sir W. Jervois—arrived only a few minutes before. (Applause.) I will remain for a little time, and after that I hope you will allow me to retire. I will now only assure you of my pleasure in presiding here and sympathy with this movement, and desire to see it carried out to a successful issue. (Applause.)

Mr. G. F. HUSSEY (Hon. Secretary of the Literary Societies' Union) briefly recounted the steps which had been taken to secure the establishment of evening classes in connection with the University. The first suggestion came from the Caledonian Society's Literary Club, and after consideration was warmly taken up by the executive of the Union. Mr. Hussey also announced that apologies for unavoidable absence had been received from the following gentlemen, who expressed the warmest interest in the movement:—Sir Samuel Davenport, Hon. Jenkin Coles (Commissioner of Public Works), His Worship the Mayor, Dean Russell, Mr. J. A. Hartley, B.A. (Inspector-General of Schools), and others. Dean Russell expressed the opinion that the proposed scheme of evening classes was peculiarly adapted to the conditions of life in this colony.