

appreciate them? It is idle now to discuss this question. Even granting for a moment that the University is born before its time, there should be no question of the influence it should exercise. The University regrets the fewness of students in Arts. We fear that some of the causes of this fewness are in the University itself. The examination which precedes entrance upon an Arts course is much too difficult. Boys at school think that when they matriculated they have finished their education. If the examination were less difficult so much value would not be set upon passing it. It would be a passport to nothing except the benefits of an academic course. Now a boy's matriculation certificate is a means of procuring some employment or of entering some office. If it be true, and we see no reason to doubt the truth of the remark, that we are an essentially practical community, surely this very characteristic should be pressed into the service of education and not used against it. By making matriculation almost a matter of course we should make the real goal higher, and boys would not be satisfied with a certificate of less attainment than a degree entitles to. In the London University and at some of the Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge matriculation is made a difficult ordeal, but it must be remembered that these institutions have a larger constituency and have special objects in view. In most of the Colleges at home matriculation is but the beginning of a course and has no special literary value. To the majority of those who passed the late matriculation examination here the word "Commencement" has no real meaning. They do not even intend to graduate, and the taking of degrees is the only commencement in a University sense.

But besides this lowering the standard for entrance into the University, there is another way of bringing in more Arts students. The Senate has approved of the proposal made lately to establish evening lectures.

We cannot altogether endorse the opinions expressed with regard to this proposed reform by the Chancellor. He acknowledges, indeed, that if it be true that so large a number as thirty students are prepared to take advantage of the course, the University is bound to begin, but he adds that the indispensable preliminaries are another staff of Professors and an increased expenditure. He suggests that the supporters of the movement should present "a list of subscriptions sufficient in amount to cover the extra cost." But why need there be another staff? Surely nobody would mean to affirm for a moment that the present staff is overworked. If it be admitted that the real work of a Professor lies in teaching rather than in examining, it abundantly appears that the Professors of the Adelaide University can well afford to give more time to their work. Taking the time-table of lectures for the Arts and Science courses for the year 1884, and making full allowance for the time taken in examinations and other duties it is hard to believe that the Professors are overworked, yet the official head of the University does not hesitate to inform us that their duties must not be increased. If this is the way in which business is to be arranged, it would be almost as well to

discourage students altogether, and leave the University as a kind of happy hunting ground for Professors. Further, in saying that the promoters of evening classes must be prepared to pay the extra cost, the Chancellor seems to forget that the University is a public institution supported by public money. Everybody contributes something towards it, and if it appear that a large number desire evening lectures they have a perfect right to them. A very pernicious heresy is gaining ground in University circles if it is for a moment thought that the institution is meant for a leisure class and not for all alike. If people cannot attend in the daytime it is the absolute duty of the Council to make every effort to afford them opportunities of gaining knowledge in the evening. The Council did not hesitate to erect the building on North-terrace, and yet they hesitate when the end to be attained is far higher. A University is a University, whether it has a special building or not; but what is the good of a University which fails to meet the requirements of would-be students?

Register December 17/84

UNIVERSITY EVENING CLASSES.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—In the course of an article in this morning's *Register* reference is made to the proceedings at a recent meeting of the University Senate, when a motion urging the establishment of evening classes was under discussion. It is stated that "the motion . . . was, in very questionable taste, opposed by a member of the Professorial Board." The allusion here is to myself. I do not know that I should in any case care to argue the question of taste with the writer of that article, but I must ask leave to state, as a matter of fact, that I did not oppose the motion.

I am, Sir, &c.,
HORACE LAMB.

December 13.

[Professor Lamb may not have directly opposed the motion, but he certainly threw cold water upon it by detailing the failure of other evening lectures from a numerical point of view.—ED.]

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