

cepted as conclusive evidence of his qualifications. The conditions attaching to the appointment were that the applicant was to be a graduate of music in an English or an Irish University, and that he should be competent to teach in all the subjects, except acoustics, comprised within the curriculum of the Cambridge University for the degree of Bachelor of Music. He had to pass an examination and to deliver a short address upon certain specified subjects, besides performing upon the organ to the satisfaction of Sir George Macfarren and Dr. Stainer, men of the highest eminence in the musical world. The salary guaranteed was £500 per annum from the University and £150 per annum from the City Council, the condition attaching to this latter payment being that he should give two organ recitals per week in the Town Hall. He has also the privilege of undertaking organ recitals and directing Musical Societies. By the appointment of Mr. Ives the Adelaide University has acquired the distinction of being the first institution in Australia in a position to grant musical degrees, and it is not improbable that candidates and students from the other colonies as well as in South Australia, pending the establishment of Chairs in their midst, will avail themselves of the facilities thus afforded of securing a degree. A great deal of interest is known to exist in Melbourne, the centre of musical life in Australia, in reference to the action of the University of Adelaide, and it is certain that great good will result here from the foundation of the Chair in promoting the development of the musical tastes of the people. No steps have been taken so far to provide for the continuance of the salary after the period for which it is guaranteed, but we may rest assured that there will be no difficulty in raising the amount should the experiment prove a success. South Australia owes a debt of gratitude to Sir William Robinson for the deep personal interest he has taken in the matter, and it will be nothing but a reasonable recognition of his efforts that his name should be formally associated with a Professorship which is likely to do so much for the cause of music in Australia.

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# The Register.

ADELAIDE : THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1884.

## UNIVERSITY EVENING LECTURES.

A resolution in favour of the establishment of evening lectures has been carried by the Senate of the University at the instance of Mr. T. A. Caterer, B.A. The subject has been brought into public notice on several occasions by the Collegiate Masters' Association, and it was at the instance of this body that the mover of the resolution brought it before the Senate. Some pains had been taken with a view to ascertaining the probable number of students who would attend evening lectures supposing that the system were inaugurated. Circulars had been sent round to the various Young Men's Literary Societies asking for their opinion as to how many students could be expected from each particular neighbourhood. The result was that thirty or forty young men declared themselves as desirous of entering upon a University course supposing the proper facilities were provided by the establishment of evening lectures at the University. The Rev. W. R. Fletcher pointed out that the mere expression of a desire to study for a course does not by any means necessarily



imply a determination to tread in the difficult paths of learning. But at the same time, in seconding the resolution, he expressed the confident hope that the existence of evening lectures would soon stimulate the desire to take advantage of them, and that a considerable number of night students would be added to the list of those now studying for degrees. Mr. Fletcher has already brought this matter forward prominently in the Council of the University, and he certainly has many opportunities of knowing what are the requirements of the young men of South Australia.

In opposition to this view, it was contended that the young men of the colony have not shown any desire to attend University evening classes, even when they had the chance. Professor Tate gave some lectures on physical geography, geology, &c., and at the last of the series, which was the most important of all, the attendance was seven. Professor Boulger offered to give a quarter's evening lessons in French, and the attendance settled down to an average of three. This was not encouraging, certainly, but at the same time we do not altogether blame the studious young people of the city for not attending these lectures. A few disconnected discourses on a scientific or philological subjects may be interesting to general public if they are put in an attrac-

tive way, but they are not what a student wants. Almost all the knowledge that a student wishes to gain may be acquired from books, and the function of the Professor is in most cases to help him to understand those books and to retain in his memory the information conveyed by them. Very few people ever learnt anything of a permanent and thorough character in what is known as a popular lecture. University lectures are useful for directing the study of the student; but the real motive-power is quiet home-work, directed towards a particular object, and in most cases that object is the passing of an examination. Some members of the Collegiate Masters' Association, as



well as a few other students who are engaged during the day, desire to pass the examination for the B.A. degree, and their efforts are no doubt directed to this purpose. To attend odd lectures on geography and French would simply be to divert their energies and distract their attention.

There are two very grave difficulties in the way of carrying out such a scheme as that which has been brought forward. The first is a difficulty which spoils many a promising project both private and public, namely, the want of cash. In Sydney this was overcome by the liberality of the Legislature in voting £1,000 annually for the purposes of evening lectures. To engage the services of special evening lecturers would entail a considerable extra expense. But there is no reason why the necessary work should not be undertaken by the staff of Professors, especially as they have always shown themselves willing to foster the desire for evening tuition on the part of persons who wish to seriously take the matter up. There are four Professors, whose special province lies in the courses for the B.A. and B.Sc. degrees, and the result of their last year's work, so far as shown by the November pass-lists, was that nine students passed their examinations. Obviously the circle of the University's influence is as yet very limited. A large number of young men are studying for barristers, most of them being law clerks.