

The Advertiser

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1887.

THE first term of the University for the current year opened on March 8. It was to be expected that a few weeks would elapse after the commencement of lectures before things would settle down into that orderly system which is deemed proper to an academic institution. So many radical changes were made in the statutes and regulations by the council and senate during 1886 that it has not been easy at once to fall into the new methods. The "matriculation examination" has been held for the last time, when 43 candidates presented themselves, of whom 24 passed. Of these we regret to say that only a small number have entered as students. The reason of this is that, as in previous years, this examination has been utilised as a final test for efficiency in primary education, and not as a gateway to a University course. A similar examination, but under the new name of the "senior public examination," will be held in December, so that the schools and schoolmasters will not be deprived of the benefits of an impartial tribunal to test their work. It is arranged that certain parts of this examination will entitle those who wish to graduate to enter as matriculated students; while those who have not passed it may nevertheless become students if they are deemed fit for an academic course. By this arrangement actual matriculation is rendered easier; but judging from the requirements set forth in the calendar, it is not the intention of the council to detract from the value of the several degrees or to lower their academic standards.

The year has opened well. Twenty-three new students have been entered as studying for degrees, and 44 as occasional students who are not ambitious for such learned distinctions. Of the new undergraduates eight are found in the school of music.

The popularity of this course is so great under the able tuition of Professor Ives that it is to be hoped some one or more of the generous-minded citizens of South Australia will intervene before the expiration of the five years to prevent this school from vanishing into a mere historic memory. To secure the permanency of this ornamental and popular department of the University will require that an addition of about £3,000 to the permanent endowment of the University should be in the hands of the council during the next three years. Seven of the new undergraduates have entered for medicine, four for law, three for arts, and one for science. Among those who applied for admission to the medical course was a young lady. Her application forced upon the council the determination of the disputed question as to whether ladies should be allowed to attend the classes of the medical school. The council on examining the statutes came to the conclusion that it had no power to refuse any female student who was otherwise qualified from being en-

rolled among the medical undergraduates and that if it were desirable to exclude ladies an additional statute to that effect would have to be passed. Meanwhile enquiries were very properly made as to the way in which other universities are dealing with this peculiarly modern difficulty, and it was found that in the majority of cases women were being admitted

as medical students on the same footing as men. The universities of Europe are almost unanimous on this matter. London is large enough to have its own schools for women. At Oxford and Cambridge they are excluded from taking medical degrees, as they are from taking any degrees; but we are informed that they can attend the lectures. In Sydney the presence of lady-students in the dissecting-room has not been found in any way improper or inconvenient. In Melbourne the question is under discussion, but it is announced that if 15 lady-students apply special arrangements will be made for their instruction. Under these circumstances the council of the Adelaide University wisely abstained from legislating on the question. The doors of the University are therefore as open to women as to men who desire to attain to efficiency in the noble art of healing, and our University may in due time boast of its lady-physicians as well of its lady graduates in science.

The most conspicuous and radical change in the new statutes is the establishment of the "higher public examination." A student may now obtain his pass degree in science or arts by very gradual stages and without attending lectures. This will prove in time to be a great boon to schoolmasters, ministers, and all who wish to continue their education amid the cares of professional and mercantile life. It is a forward step which this University is the first to take, and which others will follow in time. It does not, as some seem to imagine, imply any lowering of the standard, but simply an extension of the time for study in the case of those who are unable to attend lectures. It was but natural that those who have passed through any part of their B.A. curriculum during past years would be sure to apply to the council to be allowed to have credit for what they had done before this higher public examination was instituted. The council informs us that some have already done so. Great care will have to be exercised in granting this exemption, for in the early years of the University the standard of examination was different from what it is now. We

imagine, however, that there will be no difficulty in granting exemption in those subjects in which the student will necessarily have to pass a higher test. His past performances should not be made use of as a means for running round the hurdles instead of leaping over them. This would be neither fair to the candidate himself nor to the University.

Among the munificent donors to the University must be named not only Sir W. W. Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder, but also Mr. J. H. Angas. His name is attached to the chair of chemistry, which he founded, and to the engineering scholarship, which is awarded every three years to the successful competitor chosen from among those who have obtained the B.Sc. degree. The capital of this scholarship is still in the hands of the founder, though secured by deed to the University. The founder has signified his willingness to transfer the capital sum of £4,000 to the council with a view to enabling it to found, out of the increased income that would come into its hands, three engineering "exhibitions" for undergraduates. If this arrangement is settled it will afford a strong inducement to young men to devote themselves to study of practical as well as theoretical science, and will give just that useful impetus to the scientific work of the University which is needed. A youth who has a genius for engineering [and who successfully competes for