

There are four faculties and one board of studies, and it will be a somewhat one-sided representation if one faculty has three members on the council, another only one, and the remaining faculties none at all. It would, we venture to think, be a good plan if the teaching staff were to elect one of the professors or lecturers, to be also a member of the council, to hold office for one year, but as such a course would involve an alteration in the University Act it is not within the province of either the senate or the council to propose such a radical change. The extreme importance of this question of having salaried officers on the governing body of such an institution as the University has been forced upon public attention by the present angry politics of the Melbourne University. There the Chancellor, Dr. Hearn, is himself in receipt of £1,000 a year as Dean of the Faculty of Law, and, as his term of office as Chancellor is now expiring, a vigorous effort is being made to supplant him by electing in his stead Sir Archibald Michie. No objection is urged against Dr. Hearn on the ground of unfitness. He is a man of whom all Australia may well be proud. But it is a matter of doubtful propriety whether he should be entrusted with a seat on the board that pays him a liberal salary, and still more whether he should preside over its deliberations.

The notice-paper of the meeting this afternoon states that no fewer than 12 separate codes of statutes and regulations will be submitted to the senate for its acceptance or rejection. Some of these are nothing more than the present statutes rearranged in a more logical form and order, but others are entirely new. The regulations of the higher public examination, and of the proposed public examinations in music, are new, and involve noteworthy changes or rather developments in the work of the University. The higher public examination contemplates affording facilities for ambitious students of any age, and who are not able to attend lectures, to obtain their degree piecemeal. This will be a boon to very many who are now precluded from taking advantage of the tuition of the Uni-

versity, and will do much to encourage advanced education in the colony. The scheme for the public examinations in music is similar in character, but it does not contemplate tempting those who are not students to enter upon so difficult a course as is involved in graduation. It contents itself with offering a certificate of merit instead of the glittering prize of a Mus. Bac. degree. As this is the only Australian University that gives degrees in music, and as Melbourne intends to content itself with a practical school of music, it is to be hoped that the Universities and the musicians of the two cities may learn to co-operate in fostering musical studies, and that the academic examinations of this University may be utilised by the musical students of Melbourne. The chief item on the notice-paper is, however, the revised code of statutes. The original statutes of the University have from time to time been so enlarged and altered that it was a matter of no small difficulty to understand their mutual bearing. The bewildered candidate had to turn from one page to another in the calendar, and to consult the statutes with the same care that a layman had to exercise when trying to know what were the land laws of this colony. These statutes needed codifying, but the task was so appalling and difficult that it is not to be wondered at that it

was not attempted earlier, especially as the entire scheme of education in the various faculties was never completed till this year. The revised new statutes contain very little that is new, but they are certainly much clearer and simpler than the present ones. The chief change is in chapter iii., which affects the senate itself. Even there, however, there is nothing new, but certain practical principles which have hitherto been enshrined in the less permanent form of standing orders are to be fixed in the strong framework of sealed statutes. It will be noted also that the "professorial board" disappears altogether, and in its place we find a new faculty called "the faculty of arts" and a "board of discipline." The functions of the professorial board were easily understood as long as there was practically only one faculty, but as the work of the University extended, and the different faculties took charge of the education belonging to different branches of study, the discipline of the whole University was left in the hands of those who were attached to one department of its work. The new board of discipline associates all the deans, with the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and some others, in maintaining order in the academic halls.

The most radical change which is suggested by the proposed legislation of to-day's meeting is, however, that which affects matriculation. This has been virtually before the senate, and has been adopted by it at a previous meeting. In passing the regulations for the senior public examination it gave its adherence to the principle that that examination was not to be deemed equivalent to matriculation. Matriculation was to be something altogether different from passing the test which the University set up for the benefit of the public schools. This new method of entering the universities comes up again in the regulations for the various bachelors' degrees. Each code of regulations commences by saying that those who have passed certain subjects of the senior public examination may as a right be enrolled as matriculated students. It is then stated that those who have not complied with the above conditions may nevertheless be en-

rolled as matriculated students on satisfying the professors in the faculty to which he wishes to be attached that he has sufficient knowledge to enable him to enter upon the first year's course. This plan would doubtless interfere seriously with the working of our higher public schools were it not for the limitation of chapter ix. of the statutes, which precludes all under 16 years of age from becoming undergraduates. The legislation which comes before the senate to-day has doubtless cost the council a great deal of thought and care, and though not perhaps perfect in all its detail it settles the constitution and the methods of the work of the University on such a sure and wise basis that we may venture to predict, if it be adopted, that the University will enter upon a new career of enlarged power and usefulness.

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