

the type of the consultants. This latter class might be an advantage to the community, but unfortunately it can only be obtained at the expense of thoroughness and self-reliance on the part of the general practitioners. It will no doubt be maintained that the new graduates will be quite up to the standard of our practitioners in the past. This we dispute on the ground of limited fields for acquiring experience. We do not say anything about the relative merits of our Lecturers and those in such schools at London and Edinburgh.

I understand that some years ago Dr. Stirling was opposed to the idea of our educating nurses in the colony on this very ground of the inadequate experience. Surely experience is as necessary to the surgeon as the nurse. If so, what event has happened to produce such differences in opinion between Dr. Stirling, Assistant-Surgeon to St. George's Hospital, and Dr. Stirling, Lecturer on Physiology at the University of Adelaide? Further, it may be open to question whether it was desirable to advertise these medical chairs at all; whether it would not have been more dignified from the first to have relegated the selection of Lecturers to two or three members of Council in whom the rest had perfect confidence. The Universities at home do not advertise for Professors, nor do we advertise for Bishops and Chief Justices. But having decided to advertise, surely it would have been better to have thrown the appointments open to the inhabitants of other colonies as well as our own, or, when there were no applicants quite suited to certain Chairs to have readvertised the Chairs in their modified forms. However, 'tis done, and the Council and the University are to be congratulated that they have obtained the services of several very able men, who, I know, will, as far as possible, endeavour to create a prestige for our premature school.

I am, Sir, &c.,

—W. PEEL NESBITT.

22, North terrace, November 29.

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## THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Your remarks in a leading article with reference to my notice of motion "That provision should be made in the election of members of the Council for recording the votes of members of the Senate who do not reside in Adelaide and its suburbs" convey an impression totally opposed to my intentions; and in justice to the principle involved in the motion and to myself I shall be obliged if you will allow me to correct it. Nothing is further from my intention than the establishment of a system of proxy voting; nor is the motion a machine for attacking the Medical School. I merely wish that absent members of the Senate may be able to record their votes for the election of members of the Council. Country members receive the lists of gentlemen nominated for the Council. They cannot vote without attending the meeting. I propose that they should have voting-papers, on which they may indicate their choice. These papers may be transmitted direct to the Warden. This practice obtains in the University of Melbourne, and ensures a wide-



spread interest in University matters on the part of all graduates—an interest which cannot fail to benefit the University, and the cause of education throughout the country. For example, at the last meeting of the Senate of the Melbourne University forty members were present. The first business was the election of a member of Council. Two gentlemen had been nominated. The following quotation from the *Argus* shows in a few words the manner of working an election under the proposed method:—

“Nearly all the members of the Senate had sent in their ballot papers beforehand so that nothing remained but to proceed with the scrutiny.” Two hundred and forty-seven votes were recorded on this definite question. There are 267 members of the Senate, and I hold that the feeling of the Senate was better expressed in such a way than it would have been had the forty only been able to vote. I understand the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge use a similar system in the election of members of Parliament. You are very wide of the mark when you connect my motion in any way with opposition to the Medical School. It has not the remotest connection with that question.

I am, Sir, &c.,

BEN. POULTON.

50, North-terrace, November 29.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE AND  
THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—In a letter from “W. Peel Nesbitt,” which appears in to-day’s *Register*, the following paragraph appears:—“I understand that some years ago Dr. Stirling was opposed to the idea of our educating nurses in the colony on this very ground of the inadequate experience. Surely experience is as necessary to the surgeon as to the nurse. If so, what event has happened to produce such differences of opinion between Dr. Stirling, Assistant Surgeon to St. George’s Hospital, and Dr. Stirling, Lecturer on Physiology at the University of Adelaide?” Permit me to contradict in the most emphatic terms this assumption of Dr. Nesbitt. Having been always an earnest advocate for the better education of women in *all* walks of life, it is somewhat mortifying to have ascribed to me sentiments which I have at all times deprecated and resisted. I do not know on what kind of authority Dr. Nesbitt makes the special statement he puts forward with regard to nurses, but it was quite possible for him to discover that it is wholly incorrect. In common with all my medical and surgical colleagues I have constantly endeavoured both by instruction in the Hospital wards and by special lectures delivered to the nurses of that institution to do all I could to carry out practically the ideas I most strongly hold, viz., that it is absolutely necessary to train and educate hospital nurses intelligently for their arduous and responsible duties. Further there can be no doubt, and I certainly have never denied, that the Adelaide Hospital contains both an ample number and variety of cases of disease to permit such instruction to be perfectly well carried out. These, I believe, would be the sentiments of Dr. Nesbitt himself in a similar position, and I am sorry he should think proper to make me the advocate of opinions exactly the reverse. With the remainder of Dr. Nesbitt’s letter I have no intention of dealing at the present time.

I am, Sir, &c.,

E. C. STIRLING.

Adelaide, November 30.



# The Advertiser

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1886.

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THE meeting of the Senate of the University, which has been called for this afternoon, promises to be marked by more than ordinary interest. The learned members will have no reason to complain that they have nothing to do. If they contrive to clear their notice-paper without adjournment they will exhibit an aptitude for getting through business that will be phenomenal. Foremost among the subjects named on the agenda paper is the election of seven persons to fill the five ordinary and the two extraordinary vacancies on the council. The two extraordinary vacancies have been caused by the resignations of Dr. Way and Dr. Gardner. When they offered themselves as candidates for certain lectureships connected with the new school of medicine they very properly resigned their positions on the council. They are nevertheless eligible for re-election, and have been duly nominated. They have been useful members of the governing body of the University, but it is well that the senate should pause before re-electing them. A very important practical principle is involved in their candidature, which ought to be settled before the attendant circumstances become too complicated and personal. The council doubtless find it convenient, and even necessary, that it should have at its sittings some one or more members of the teaching staff to assist it in its deliberations. These representatives ought however to be equally divided among the various faculties.