

Register November 20<sup>th</sup> 1886

THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—May I through your columns ask members of the University Senate, to-morrow being the last day to nominate seven members for Council, to consider the advisability or otherwise of seats in the executive body being held by gentlemen who are at the same time salaried officers of the University? The comparatively scanty number of Senators has hitherto limited the area of choice from the Senate, and is perchance one reason why gentlemen without any academic qualification have been given seats on the Council; but surely now that the University is enlarging the number of its schools we may infer a stronger Senate, and may find there suitable men for the Council—men who have not now, and do not wish to have, paid office under that body. It will be remembered by members of the Senate that the Council may and does receive the advice of the various Faculties on matters of education and discipline, and that therefore the exclusion of professors and lecturers from the executive body cannot be detrimental to the University. The importance of the principle involved and the difficulty of otherwise communicating rapidly with members of the Senate is my apology for trespassing on your space.

I am, Sir, &c., X.  
Adelaide, November 19.



# The Register.

ADELAIDE: WEDNESDAY, Nov. 24, 1886.

## THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

About a month ago the Council of the University invited by advertisement applications for eight lectureships in the Medical School. These lectureships were—On the Principles and Practice of Medicine; on the Principles and Practice of Surgery, and on Practical Surgery; on Obstetrics and diseases peculiar to women; on Pathology; on Ophthalmic Surgery; on Forensic Medicine; on Aural Surgery; and on Lunacy. The applications were in on November 10 and were adjudged upon by the Faculty of Medicine, which consists of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, Drs. Whittell, Gardner, Way, and Stirling, and Professors Watson, Tate, and Rennie. Upon these applications the Faculty duly reported, and last Friday the Council adopted the recommendations made. Some of the appointments were foregone conclusions. Dr. Gardner is Lecturer on Surgery, Dr. Way on Obstetrics, Dr. Lendon on Forensic Medicine, Dr. Giles on Aural Surgery, and Dr. Symons on Ophthalmic Surgery. These were all known beforehand. The chief surprise was in the appointment to the Chair of Medicine. It was generally understood that this position was assured to Dr. Thomas. Two applications were received, however, and the Council has adopted the simple expedient of dividing the lectureship into two, and making Dr. Verco joint lecturer with Dr. Thomas. The principle upon which the divi-



sion was made has not been announced; but possibly one will take the Principles, and the other the Practice. Students in medicine ought to be glad that the exigencies of the situation have had the effect of making the Council affirm the principle of the Scotch divine—"Baith's best." If they do not get on well in medicine it will not be because the University is chary in the matter of the number of lecturers.

There are, however, people who say that the arrangement is not creditable to the University. Applications were invited for one lectureship in medicine. Why should two lecturers be appointed? Upon this subject we notice that a member of the Senate has a question to ask this day week. Perhaps he may elicit some information which will serve to remove the general impression that the doubling of the lectureship was devised for the purpose of increasing the number of medical men who are in favour of the new School. It may reasonably be suggested that, as there are two lectureships in Medicine so there should be two lectureships in Surgery. For ourselves we cannot think that undue influence was exercised in the matter. Rather we should suppose that the University, failing to get students, is anxious to get Professors. Already we have several ornamental men on the professorial staff, and so long as the country cares to stand it, there is no reason why the number should not be indefinitely added to. A long professorial roll gives a certain air of dignity to the University, and the units added might as well be medical men as lawyers. Another departure from the list of lectureships as advertised is that Therapeutics, which was unaccountably omitted from the first programme of subjects to be taught in the new School, is now added to the Medicine Lectureship. There do not seem to have been any applications for the lectureships in Pathology and Lunacy. The former, together with two or three other, is now offered to Professor Watson, and the latter to Dr. Paterson. It will be instructive to enumerate the offices now held



in the University by Dr. Watson. He will be known as Professor of Anatomy, Lecturer on Operative Surgery, Lecturer on Surgical Anatomy, and Lecturer on Pathological Anatomy. What he may be after awhile nobody can say. Is it any wonder that Dr. Watson has gone to Bombay? We only hope he will come back again. He is about the only man in the School who has had sound and extensive experience in teaching. The other gentlemen are all able practitioners, but it does not at all follow that they will be effective teachers. The University is beginning to paint in oils before it has mastered the rudiments of drawing. So much the worse for the picture.

It is to be feared that it is too late nowadays to protest with success. When the Senate meets next Wednesday a question will, as has been said, be put with regard to the flagrant departure from the ordinary rules which marked the appointment of two lecturers in Medicine. But this will be all. The Senate is entirely in the hands of the Council, and the Council is determined upon having a Medical School with the officers named. Even if all the other members of the medical profession expressed themselves as ad-