

exceptional ability in the teachers—can hardly be said to be present in this case. Beyond the present professors and lecturers on medical and surgical subjects, there is no adequate provision made for the teaching staff of the new school. It has been decided—inconsiderately as we think—that the £800 a year which is now devoted to the maintenance of South Australian scholars in the English Universities shall after next year be handed over to the Adelaide University for the benefit of the Medical School. This grant is either too much or too little; it is too much if the number of students is as small as it is likely to be, and it is too little if the school is to be in any way a credit to the colony. We cannot get sufficient good men to take service with us unless we offer them large salaries. As things are we shall have, if the Senate approves the new regulations, to put up with an inferior school, administered to a large extent by men of no special distinction, with here and there a dash of real ability and reputation thrown in. It would be very much better to have no Medical School at all, until at least we are able to make a creditable show.

The regulations before us arrange for a five years' course of study. Students are eligible only after they have completed their sixteenth year, and they must have passed in the new senior public examination, or an equivalent, all the subjects specified by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. It is worthy of notice here that there is no mention made of the date at which the regulations, if approved by the Senate, are to come into force. For the rest the course prescribed for each year seems to be very full, unless it be a fault that practical instruction in clinical surgery is not made compulsory until the third year. It is a minor detail that the regulations only accept attendance at the Adelaide Hospital, the Council evidently not anticipating the early establishment of another institution of the kind. In the fourth year the student is required to "attend

diligently post-mortem examinations at the Adelaide Hospital for six months, during three of which he shall perform them himself." Speaking under correction, we do not think that this last provision is usual. Most of the Medical Schools, whilst taking sufficient care that their students practise on *corpora vilia*, are not concerned with the particular demonstration of their ability to conduct post-mortem examinations. Besides, the regulation expresses very little and might just as well be left out. There may be very few cases requiring a post-mortem examination at the Hospital during the term specified, and, under any circumstances, the observation of skilled operators, combined with practice in dissection, would be of more benefit to the student than any trial of his own ability in the direction indicated.

So far as we are able to compare the schedule of fees proposed here with those obtaining in other Medical Schools, we find that a man's M.B. degree will be cheaper here than elsewhere. This is not a drawback, all other things being equal; but it is necessary to warn the Senate against the danger of making the honours of the University too cheap. We would far

sooner see the design of establishing a Medical School abandoned altogether for the present. There are enough schools in the colonies already, and, to say the least of it, we cannot pretend to offer any inducements here which are not to be obtained elsewhere. It is said that the completion of the Medical School is necessary to the University, and no doubt it will be more complete with such a school added; but there is no need for haste in this matter. If its advocates could show that there was a dearth of medical men; that the fact that South Australians who are likely to make excellent doctors are now obliged to go elsewhere for their education is a loss or an injury to the colony, they will have proved the first part of their case. They have not done this; we do not think they can do it. When they have there are grave reasons why the new school should not be established for some years to come. Meanwhile the regulations are before the Senate "for rejection or adoption," and upon the decision of that body depends the immediate fate of the school.

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*From the Register*  
*October 13<sup>th</sup> 1886*

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#### AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE BILL.

The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS, in moving the second reading, gave an historical review of the Agricultural College, whose inception was due to a resolution Mr. Basedow had passed through the House in October, 1879. Professor Custance was chosen to take charge of the College, and the practical knowledge of farming and the enthusiasm he had displayed since he arrived proved the wisdom of the selection. In 1881, when Mr. Catt was Commissioner of Crown Lands, the present site was selected as the best offered. It would have been more advantageous to the colony if the site had been nearer some permanent water, but the soil was of fair average quality. It embraced some hundreds of acres of similar land to that between Salisbury and Gawler, the soil ranging from light sandy loam to very stiff clay, and was very suitable for experimental

farming; although, if there had been permanent water near experiments in wet farming and irrigation could have been made. The place was formerly a dense mallee scrub, the Government had bought the land in 1881 for £6 per acre. In July, 1883, after the erection of the College was commenced, Mr. Bright carried a motion granting a sum for the endowment of the College. It was opened in February, 1885, when fifteen students were admitted. The number in attendance during the second session, from August to December, 1885, was sixteen, and on February last there were twenty-eight students showing very satisfactory progress. There were twenty-six students now. The fees paid in advance up to December for this year were £1,422 11s. 9d. The total amount received since February last year was £2,295 16s. 7d. The students' fees for the year ending December 31, 1885, amounted to £873 4s. The salaries amounted to

£294; wages, £326; provisions, £314 5s. 10d.; extras, £50 — total working expenses, £984 5s. 10d.; leaving a debit balance of £111 1s. The Professor said that entire satisfaction had been expressed by practical farmers with the work of the past season and the information gained by their sons. The students themselves took great interest in learning the branches of agriculture taught at the College. Therefore much good must in time result from the influence of those students who successfully passed through the College course afterwards by examples showing in the various districts of the colony in which they may be situated the improved method of treating the land, &c., learned by them whilst at the College. The instructions given consisted of farm classes, that was, the students had a conversational and explanatory class on some part of the Farm; lectures and classes in the College; practical chemistry in the laboratory; and manual work on the Farm — the subjects taught so far being "Agriculture, chemistry (in preparation for agricultural chemistry), botany applied to agriculture, bookkeeping, surveying, mensuration, mechanics, geology, entomology (with special attention to farm insects), forestry,