

are there signs of a growing taste for "sweetness and light?" What are the most popular parts of its work and is there any means by which more or better work could be done? Readers of the University reports must always be struck by the singular prominence of the professional branches. At the last Commemoration no less than six degrees in medicine were granted and two in law, while there were four in arts, two in science, and one in music. The arts degrees, we fancy, were relatively more numerous than usual. Turning, however, to the undergraduates, of whom last year there were 105 altogether, we find that twelve were studying for the L.L.B. degree, two of the latter being graduates in arts; 48 for the M.B.; 17 for the B.A.; 17 for the B.Sc.; and 11 for the Mus. Bac. Of the degrees that are not professional qualifications as well as academic distinctions those awarded in science have hitherto seemed to be in most request. That is not surprising, for science naturally attracts more votaries than letters in an age that is eminently practical. The love of knowledge for its own sake makes the scholar, but the direct applications of science to the ordinary business of life are so many and so various that inducements to its study are particularly strong. At present, however, science and arts at the University appear to be dividing honors. But, without counting any of the eleven undergraduates in music, no fewer than 58 of the 105 students working for degrees are apparently making use of the University to equip themselves for professional careers. Though it is not at all wonderful that it should be so, the fact remains that the institution as a degree-conferring body is principally concerned in turning out doctors and lawyers.

Medicine, it appears, exercises an extraordinary fascination. The medical students, numbering 48, are quite a small army. Some of our budding physicians and surgeons have been much upset by the turn of affairs at the Adelaide Hospital, and have gone elsewhere to pursue their studies. At the recent rate of production, however, South Australia is in little danger of a short supply of doctors. We are supposed to be a tolerably healthy community, but candidates for the legal right to dose and carve us when anything goes wrong seem to be exceptionally numerous. As the regular lawyer is well guarded against the rivalry of quacks, the comparative neglect of law is in want of explanation. Can it be that Mr. Kingston's dreadful Bill is exerting some deterrent influence? It must be pointed out, however, that besides the twelve who last year were studying for degrees, there were sixteen non-gradu-

ating students preparing for certificates to enable them to practise in the Supreme Court. There are more roads than one to retainers, refreshers, and costs. The total number of non-graduating students at the University in 1896 was 215. For the first time, the School of Mines and Industries gets credit for the large number of its students who attend University lectures in certain of the courses. Last year the University included in its figures no fewer than 92 students from the school. Science lectures were also attended by seven from the Education Department and eleven from the Pharmaceutical Society. Are the non-graduating students who attended the lectures in the M.B. course on Materia Medica the same eleven? Besides the 110 already mentioned there were 51 non-graduating students receiving instruction in science, and 44 attended various lectures of the arts course. In the senior public examination in November last many were called, but few chosen. The passes, however, were much more satisfactory in the junior public and preliminary examinations. In addition to the work done in these directions, the University is performing excellent educational service by the comparatively new system of Extension Lectures. It is gratifying to read that last year the lectures were largely attended.

*Register 3/1/97*

EXCEPTIONAL CASES WILL BE MET BY THE HIS PROFESSION

HIGH HONOUR FOR AN ADELAIDE MEDICAL STUDENT.—His many South Australian friends will be glad to hear that Dr. J. L. T. Isbister, an Adelaide University student, who took his M.B. degree at the end of last year, has been elected House Surgeon at the Sydney Hospital. In the ordinary course of events he would have been ready to take a house surgery at the Adelaide Hospital, but South Australian talent is not in demand at that institution just now, and Dr. Isbister applied for the position at Sydney. There were a great many applicants, and he probably regards it as a high honour that he has been preferred to all the local competitors for the post.