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and certificates required from students under these regulations." By passing this regulation the Senate, which is the only popular legislative body of the University, has resigned its control over the nature of the tests imposed by the Faculty of Medicine (with the approval of the Council) for keeping out young men from the profession, or admitting them into its ranks. Whatever the legal aspects of the matter may be, the Senate has committed itself to a doubtful policy, and this is only another illustration of the need for revitalizing that body. If the affairs of the University should come before the Legislature the minimum requirements for medical registration in South Australia should receive due consideration. Commonsense seems to indicate that, just as many men get their diplomas in England without having degrees, so the minimum requirement for registration in Australia should be something less than that prescribed for admission to medical rank in the Adelaide University.

# The Advertiser

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1902.

## THE UNIVERSITY.

The University Calendar, which was late last year, is later still on the present occasion. Sectional parts, however, dealing with the different courses of study, have already been published, so that no inconvenience has been caused by the delay. The volume provides in a convenient and easily accessible form the means of gauging the work done by the institution last year, and also its aims and standards for the future. It is not a mere dead record of statistics, names, and regulations. The papers set in the various examinations are given, and so an opportunity is afforded not only for assessing the value of the steps won, but also for forming a judgment of the chances which present students may have when the period of test comes on again. The University is a progressive institution, and not only is the scope of its curriculum steadily widening but its standards are being gradually raised. Already it is claimed for the different schools connected with the chief seat of learning in this capital that the levels below which a pass will not be granted are at least as high as those of any other university in the Empire, and the laudable desire of the Professorial board is to retain this reputation. Nothing tends so much to injure the prestige of a university as laxity in regard to its examinations. It is no kindness to the aspirant for a degree, while it becomes almost an injustice to the public to allow him to obtain too easy a success. The letters which a graduate in law, medicine, arts, science, or music writes after his name are meant to be a guarantee of proficiency in that particular branch of study, and when they are unworthily bestowed not only does the recipient lose caste, but the forfeiture of confidence re-acts on his alma mater and all who have gone through its courses of training. There are universities still which sell their degrees, but fortunately they do not exist on English soil, and their number is, comparatively speaking, small. In other cases degrees are conferred on distinguished people for reasons other than scholarship, but when this is done by any reputable university the cause of the honor is made very plain, and there is no possibility of a mistake on the subject, and, so far as we are aware, nothing of the kind, save in recognition of similar compliments elsewhere, has been indulged in by Australia. Here the degree given may always be relied on as a certificate of meritorious work on prescribed lines, and it is essential that there should be no departure from this principle in any but the most exceptional cases. It seems hard sometimes that an industrious and painstaking student should fail to satisfy the examiners, but the individual must suffer that the community may gain, and, after all, it is very seldom that conscientious work falls short of the desired result. When an aspirant is "plucked" usually the reason can be found in carelessness, neglect, or insufficient preparation.

The higher branches of education in Australia are generally entered upon for purely utilitarian purposes. The wealthy leisured class which in older countries make use of the university for the acquirement

of culture, and with the object of enabling them more adequately to fulfil the duties which society expects from them, are not numerous in these States, although there are students at all the Australian universities whose ambition is rather to be taught thoroughly than to be qualified quickly for a professional career. As a rule, however, the business of life in its more restricted form is the compelling cause, and the "bread and butter" schools are those most freely patronised. The transfer of the duty of equipping State school teachers from the old training institution to the University has no doubt had much to do with the sudden expansion of the Arts school, which included 119 students last year, as against less than two-thirds of that number in the previous 12 months, while the growth in the Medical school is of course due to the fact that the happy ending of the unfortunate hospital dispute enabled the council to rehabilitate it. Provision has now been made for a fifth year's course, so that the resurrection is complete, and there will be no longer a humiliating need for students to emigrate to Sydney or Melbourne to obtain their degrees. A new anatomical building is promised at an early date, and Professor Watson has increased even his large store of practical knowledge by the experience he gained while acting as consulting surgeon to his Majesty's forces in Natal, an appointment which testified at once to his capacity and his enthusiasm. The highly practical science course has also attracted a large number of students, both graduating and non-graduating, and their work has been greatly facilitated by the erection of physical and chemical laboratories, over which, with the extra provision made for the engineering school, a sum of £10,000 has been spent. Of the 254 young ladies and gentlemen who are receiving their training in this faculty, 134 are drawn from the School of Mines and Industries, which works harmoniously with the University in those departments which naturally dovetail into one another, and which covers a far wider area of technical training than the older institution can properly bring within its radius. The University, however, is reaching out into yet unexplored regions, and with the co-operation of the Chamber of Commerce an attempt is being made to meet the wish of the mercantile community for a system of higher education in commercial subjects. At the outset some difficulty was experienced in the necessary work of framing a complete scheme of instruction and examination, but judging by the regulations agreed to yesterday this has now been overcome. The Law course is healthily active, and so is that devoted to the study of music, although recent events have perhaps tended temporarily to discourage some of the undergraduates. But Dr. Ennis brings to his task the invaluable qualities of a good instructor and a successful administrator, so that soon this aesthetic branch of training will become increasingly popular.

The number of undergraduates in the different courses shows an advance on the previous year, which more than counterbalances the slight falling off in the non-graduating total, while the evening classes are also in a flourishing state. There has been a large accession of candidates, too, for the public examinations in the various grades, the number having attained the very respectable total of 2,513, an advance of 25 per cent. on 1900. For very many children the passing of one or other of these tests represents the end of their education so far as the efforts of their parents are concerned, although strictly speaking to an intelligent human being education only ends with life. Still, it is satisfactory to see that a substantial proportion push on to the senior examination, though the great majority of the youngsters seem content to stop when they have negotiated the "primary," which, at least, embraces more subjects, and is a better test of general proficiency in elementary knowledge than the "preliminary," for which it has been substituted. The fact that the average of passes in the primary, junior, and senior, is about 50 per cent., shows that the Board of Examiners are conscientious in their application of standards, while it also suggests that in many cases the candidates are attempting tasks far beyond their strength, and this ought to be realised by their teachers. When a child defines "boycott" as "a child's bed," and "guerilla" as "a kind of wild beast" there is a hint of imperfect tuition. It is easy also to sympathise with

the Latin examiner, who pathetically remarks, "A candidate who uses 38 words instead of four must expect to lose a mark for this deliberate and exasperating long-windedness." In another case 24 words were used where one would have been ample, and there is justice in the comment that "teachers should check this youthful tendency to Parliamentary eloquence!" There is humor, too, as well as commonsense in the statement that "Grammatical inaccuracy is not redeemed but accentuated by the drawing of neat parallel lines in colored ink." The elementary musical examinations showed a higher percentage of success, which is a proof that those who presented themselves had been more carefully prepared for the ordeal through which they had to pass. Centres of examination, both in general subjects and in music, were in operation not only in our provincial towns, but in Western Australia, while University extension lectures were delivered with much acceptance in city and country by Professors Douglas and Ives, and Messrs. Whendon and Sutherland. During the academic year the Heir-Apparent to the British throne became a graduate of the University, while the council were specially represented at the ninth centenary of the Glasgow University, at the Tuberculosis Congress in London, and at the millenary of King Alfred at Winchester, but unfortunately Professor Stirling was unable to attend, as had been arranged, at the bi-centenary of the Yale University. There have been several alterations in the teaching staff, and the cause of learning suffers a great loss by the lamented deaths of Professor Tate and Dr. E. W. Way. Some day Adelaide will train its own professors, and already one of its graduates acts in that capacity at Edinburgh, while last year Mr. Allen went to Perth Technical School as a lecturer on mathematics and physics. All the additions to the local staff, however, have been drawn from other spheres, two of them having come from Sydney.

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### INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS.

His Excellency the Governor has on several occasions advocated the extension of eligibility for appointments under the Indian and English Civil Services to Australian candidates. The great difficulty in the way has been the necessity of passing an examination in England qualifying the candidates for residence at certain English colleges as a condition for the final examination, and there are political difficulties as regards holding the examination out of England. There are few Australian candidates, however, who are able to incur the expense of a voyage to England in the hope of success in passing the qualifying examination. In these circumstances it was suggested that in order to obviate this difficulty the great shipping companies might possibly grant passages to England to deserving candidates. On his recent visit to South Australia the question was brought under the notice of Mr. Ismay, a member of the firm owning the White Star line. Although unable to bind his company to any permanent arrangement, except after consultation with the other companies concerned, Mr. Ismay generously offered one free passage this year to any one scholar of the University of Adelaide who is certified by the University authorities as likely to win a scholarship at either Oxford or Cambridge, or to pass satisfactorily the examination for the Indian Civil Service. It is hoped that some promising student of the University may be able to avail himself of this concession.