

Reg. 29th March 1906.

### UNIVERSITY AND SPORT

#### DISCUSSION BY THE SENATE.

At the meeting of the University Senate on Wednesday afternoon Mr. J. R. G. Murray moved that the following should be added to the statutes of the University:—

In order to provide for the maintenance of University sports and the University Union, there shall be payable annually to the University, or the University Sports Association, a fee of £1 17/6 by every male student taking any course for any degree or diploma or the final certificate in law, unless he be exempted from so doing for any special reason approved by some person or persons appointed for this purpose by the council. Such fee may be paid in three terminal instalments, and shall be paid at the same time as the lecture fees. Every student paying this fee will be entitled to membership of the University Sports Association and the University Union, subject to the rules of those bodies.

In December a letter was received from the University Sports Association in which it was pointed out that the body was formed in 1879 with a membership of about 90, and that the subscription was £1 10/6. As considerable difficulty had been experienced in obtaining new members it was thought that if the subscription was reduced more would join. Accordingly a meeting was held, and a resolution was carried to the effect that all male undergraduates and law students should be obliged to pay an annual subscription to the Sports Association. It was suggested in the communication that a fee of 7/ per term would be sufficient, and that it should entitle the subscriber to membership of the Sports Association, which included the union room, boating, tennis, lacrosse, and football. It was specially mentioned that the association did not desire that evening students should be compelled to become members, and that exemption might also be granted in instances where any hardship would ensue. The system had worked satisfactorily at universities in England and the United States, at the Melbourne University, and at St. Peter's and Prince Alfred Colleges. The council had long felt that the University suffered owing to the absence of a sports ground, and had enquired into the advisableness of securing the Jubilee Oval or a suitable area in the park lands; but nothing satisfactory had been arranged. The council was strongly of the opinion that something ought to be done in the University to encourage sports, if only for the sake of the health of the students and the development of a corporate life among them. (Hear, hear.) The association's application was viewed by the council with favour, and after enquiry the statutes had been framed on the lines of those of the Melbourne University. No injustice would be done to anybody, and the fee was moderate. (Hear, hear.) There had been a certain amount of opposition to the statutes by about 32 students; but on investigation it was ascertained that the majority of them were evening students who would be exempt from the compulsory provisions. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. R. W. Bennett seconded the proposition, and felt that by adopting the statutes they would be doing that which would tend toward the advancement of the best interests of the University and the students. (Hear, hear.)

Professor Henderson read a letter which he had received from Professor Baldwin Spencer, of the Melbourne University, stating that the system worked splendidly at that institution.

Mr. Alfred Gill said that while he thoroughly agreed with the principle enunciated by Mr. Murray he strongly objected to it being embodied in the statutes. Compulsion ought not to be introduced into the matter. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. H. Vaughan considered that the Senate ought not to pass such drastic legislation. If the undergraduates were unanimous in their desire for the adoption of the proposal there was no necessity to make it a subject of compulsion. If they carried the proposition it would mean that the doors of the University would be still further closed to those who wished to enter, because young men who could not afford the subscription would keep away. (A Member—"Oh, no; not at all.") It was not fair to compel anybody to abide by the statutes, which were a species of socialistic legislation that surprised him. (Laughter and cheers, and "You have mixed it this time.") Arguments had been adduced that universities in various parts of the world had adopted the system, but there were hundreds of universities which had not. (A Member—"Then they are not up to date.") He hoped that the proposal would be rejected.

Other speakers supported the motion, which was carried.

Reg. 29th March 1906

### UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS.

On Wednesday the Senate of the University adopted a new statute, which obliges every male student taking a course for degree or diploma to become a member of the Sports Association—or, rather, to pay an annual guinea as subscription to that body, with a right to receive all its privileges. Taking part in athletics must, of course, be optional; but practical support of them is to be compulsory. The idea was approved by the council, a strong body chosen from among lawyers, doctors, ministers, schoolmasters, and business men. In the Senate, which comprises nearly all the graduates, it was earnestly opposed, but was carried by a large majority. As one speaker ingeniously urged, if there are hardly any students who care nothing for athletics, the statute is not wanted; if there are many, it is unjust. At first sight the proposal does, indeed, seem to be a little tyrannical. The Sports Association is established for those who want it; why, then, should the others be forced into it? This statement, however, does not comprehend the whole situation. There is a widespread feeling that corporate life among the students is lacking, and needs to be encouraged, and that it is most likely to be fostered by community in athletic interests. The union, which should be a strong social and debating club, is also included in the compulsory membership, and may now develop a degree of influence and usefulness which it has hardly attained.

The principle is quite new, so far as Adelaide University is concerned; but it has been tested in schools here, and in some universities elsewhere. Many things useful among schoolboys cannot as fitly be applied to the higher seat of learning, and probably it was the argument from Melbourne and Manchester Universities which convinced the Senate. The obvious appeal to the Rhodes Scholarship conditions is not so sound as it might at first sight appear to be. Among prominent scholars the one who is also a conspicuous athlete has, perhaps, the best chance of success in life; and the Empire has now thoroughly acquiesced in Mr. Rhodes's determination to give to such a man the highest opportunities for becoming a leader of his fellows. Athletics thus have a recognition not before allowed to them; but it is quite another thing to sweep into their net a number of young men who have no taste for them—for that is what the new statute really implies. Much will depend on the administration of the regulation. It is understood that all evening students are to be exempted, and that a committee (two graduates and one undergraduate) has already been appointed to consider other applications for exemption which may come in. Lameness or ill-health would be a valid plea; so would want of means, though it is a delicate matter to compel a youth formally to urge and prove this last excuse. Doubtless exemption will be wisely and freely granted; and this may go far to destroy the practical effect of the whole rule. But the worst thing that could happen would be to have a body of students who pay the sports fee under protest, regarding it as an unjust tax, and making no attempt to take advantage of the privileges it gives. There may be no great danger of this; but the statute is clearly an experiment, and its working will be watched with interest, if not a little concern.

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### ELDER CONSERVATORIUM SCHOLARSHIPS.

At a meeting of the council of the University on Friday the following scholarships were awarded. They are tenable for three years:—

Violin.—Miss Daisy Kennedy, daughter of Mr. J. A. Kennedy, head master of the Gilles Street Public School.

Singing.—Miss May Clytie Hine, daughter of Mr. W. H. Hine, of Hughes street, Mile-End.

Composition.—Mr. George G. F. Gardner, son of Mr. Gavin Gardner.

Miss Daisy Kennedy comes of a musical family. Her grandfather was well known in Australia years ago as a public singer. She is a cousin of Miss Rita King, who has distinguished herself as a pianist, and is occupying a professional position in South Africa. Miss Kennedy showed remarkable musical talent from an early age. Her instructors in violin playing have been Mrs. Alderman, of Glenelg, and Miss Nora Kyllin Thomas.

Miss Hine at first received private tuition on the pianoforte, and when 16 years old passed the senior examination for that instrument. For the last two years she has attended the Conservatorium, although only half that period has she received instruction in singing. It was intended by her parents that she should study piano playing only, but on the strong recommendation of Mr. Bevan, who considered Miss Hine had the making of a flexible soprano voice of good quality, they consented to her learning singing. The reports of her instructors have been exceedingly favourable.

Mr. George G. F. Gardner has been organist at St. Andrew's Church, Walkerville, for 3½ years. He has passed the local examinations in the Bachelor of Music course, and on the acceptance of an original composition will be entitled to the degree in that faculty.

Reg. 5th April 1906

### UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS.

From "B. S. C."—"The new statute adopted by the senate of the University I regard as a piece of high-handed tyranny on the part of a majority of the senate, and for the most unlovely of reasons—the saving of their own pockets by forcing those students who take no interest in sports to contribute to the maintenance thereof unless the student will submit to the indignity of showing that from poverty he cannot afford to subscribe. The simple statement by a student that he takes no interest in sports, and therefore does not intend to subscribe, should be a sufficient declaration. Far too much money and time are spent on sports of all sorts for them to be for the real good of the community, and they prevent the young of both sexes from saving and providing means to start homes of their own, and so fulfilling their duty to the State as their parents did before them."

Reg. 7th April 1906.

### UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS.

From "Graduate":—"B. S. C." makes the amazing statement that the University Senate passed the new compulsory-sports-fee statute 'for the most unlovely of reasons—the saving of their own pockets.' Assuming that this misrepresentation is not deliberate, it shows an ignorance of the subject which surely ought to keep any one out of print. The statute affects male undergraduates only. The Senate is composed only of graduates, of either sex, of over three years' standing! 'B. S. C.' has a perfect right to consider the new rule 'a piece of high-handed tyranny' if he pleases; but he should at once apologise for this ignorant attributing of a personal motive."

Reg. 21st April 1906.

Professor Rennie, the University of Adelaide delegate to the forthcoming jubilee of the Melbourne University, left Adelaide by the express on Friday afternoon. He was accompanied by Professor, Mrs., and Miss Stirling, Dr. A. A. and Mrs. Hamilton, Professor Ennis, Dr. Cleland, Dr. Symons, Messrs. S. J. Jacobs, S. Talbot Smith, and the Registrar (Mr. C. R. Hodge). Mr. J. R. G. Adams also went as the representative of the Public Library Board at the jubilee celebrations of the Melbourne Public Library.

Reg. 29th March 1906.

In Executive Council on Wednesday morning the following appointments were made:—Dr. Wilson to be acting health officer at Wallaroo during the absence of Dr. Harbison; Capt. M. Smith to be assistant health officer at Wallaroo; Dr. Nische to be superintendent of the School of Anatomy, established in connection with the University of Adelaide; Mr. A. J. Inkster to be auditor of the Elliston Vermin Board. The members of the Commonwealth Royal Commission on Ocean Mail Service were entertained at luncheon by the Ministry on Wednesday.