

—Various Styles.—

Carelessness in details was a frequent fault. For instance, in the junior commercial business correspondence, "Mr. Avery" was correctly addressed in the superscription of one letter, while in the body of the letter he was referred to as "Mr. Aviary." But as this candidate adopted the signature "J. Bird" perhaps the mistake may be excused. There were observable great differences in style, which ranged from the flowery celestial—"Hoping to be favoured with your everlasting esteemed commands"—to that of the casual mention that "documents for the insurance freight (!) and other small things" were enclosed. The candidate who described Mr. Avery as "a man of means from his boyhood" mentioned also that "he had all the qualifications of a courteous but business-like man."

Register, Feb. 13th 09. Advertiser, Feb. 17th 09.

—A Queensland University—

It is proposed to mark the first fifty years in the history of Queensland by establishing a university at Brisbane. The jubilee of the great northern State will be celebrated on December 10 of this year, and before that date it is surmised that the Bill now in course of preparation by the Kidston Ministry will have passed the Legislature, and all other preliminary work have been done to inaugurate the university. The site suggested for the new seat of learning is Government House Domain, on the south bank of the River Brisbane. This will necessitate the viceregal residence being changed to one beyond the city. There is little doubt that neither trouble nor expense will be spared to bring the new university in line with the institutions of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Tasmania. The salaries will be such as will attract and retain the highest teachers, and the courses of study will have a modern outlook. It remains to be seen whether the new university will be able to gather students from all parts of Queensland. In the past Sydney has been the alma mater of most Queensland graduates, and for many years to come it may continue to attract students from districts beyond Brisbane. Parents and guardians at Rockhampton or Townsville may prefer Sydney or Melbourne for training their children, not only on account of the equipment of the older universities, but for the change in climate. However, in the years to come the Queensland University will probably secure the youth of its own State. It is interesting to know that the Adelaide University was established 40 years after the settlement of this State, and at a time when the population was a little above 200,000, while Queensland to-day has nearly three times that number. The latter State, however, has not had the good fortune to possess such public-spirited citizens as Sir Thomas Elder and Sir W. W. Hughes, who jointly contributed £40,000 to start the Adelaide University. Perhaps when the Brisbane University is a reality then munificent bequests from wealth won at Mount Morgan, or on the great sheep and cattle stations of Queensland, will flow to its assistance, and that liberal donations will perpetuate the public spirit of wealthy Queenslanders. It is generally understood that as the Government will bear all the expense of the new university, it will require the institution to train a portion of the primary teachers. This will necessitate a professor of education being on the staff of the university. At present there is no provision for training teachers in their art. The Director (Mr. D. Ewart) has reached the age limit for retirement. He has been connected with the Queensland education system from the sixties, and has gained a high reputation. His successor, who has not yet been selected must be a master of arts of a British university, and as it is generally supposed he will be a person from outside the State he will be one of the most important factors in assisting the university to create educational enthusiasm to date from the jubilee year.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.
The calendar of the University of Adelaide for the year 1900 was issued yesterday, and as usual it contains full information concerning the work of the last twelve months, as well as the syllabus of work for the current year. The report shows that the number of undergraduates last year was 391, while there were also 287 non-graduating students. Of these 37 were engaged in the law course, 69 in the medical course, 198 in the arts course, 75 in the science course, and 7 were studying for the degree of Bachelor of Music. The number of students attending the Elder Conservatorium of Music was 363. The importance of the various public examinations to the University was proved by the fact that 1,008 candidates entered for the primary, 864 for the junior, 586 for the senior, and 118 for the higher public. In the first-named examination just over half got through, in the junior more than half failed, and in the senior less than a third obtained certificates. To fill temporarily vacancies created by the resignations of Professor Bragg and Dr. Madsen, the council have made the following appointments for 1900:—Acting professors in the department of physics and mathematics, Mr. Kerr Grant, M.Sc. (Melbourne) and Mr. H. J. Priest, B.A., B.Sc.; lecturer on electrical engineering, Mr. L. Hey Sharp, B.Sc., B.E. Professor Bragg has been appointed to represent the University at the commemoration in June next, at Oxford, of the centenary of Charles Darwin's birth and the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of "The Origin of Species," while Dr. Symons has been appointed to represent the University at the sixteenth International Medical Congress at Buda-Pesth in August and September next. The grandchildren of the late Sir Henry Ayers, who for many years was treasurer of the University and a member of the council, have decided, with the full approval of the council, to erect within the main building a tablet to his memory. In return for certain privileges in connection with the use of the university library, which contains 22,000 volumes, the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association have agreed to subscribe £50 annually for the purchase of suitable medical books and periodicals, which shall become the property of the University.

Register, Feb. 8th 1909.

UNIVERSITY FOR THE WEST.

ADVISABLENESS OF ESTABLISHMENT.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION.

PERTH, February 7.

A notification appears in this week's Government Gazette to the effect that the following have been appointed as a royal commission to enquire into and report whether the time is opportune for the establishment of a university in the State:—Dr. Hackett, M.L.C. (Chairman), the Bishop of Perth, Mr. Cecil Andrews, Sir Walter James, Brother Nunan, Messrs. H. Briggs, M.L.C., T. Bath, M.L.A., F. B. Allen, and W. E. Cooke, and Drs. Saw and J. W. Smith. In the event of the commission deciding in favour of the establishment of a university the Commissioners are charged to enquire into the following matters:—(a) As to the constitution and form of government of such a university; (b) professors and other university officers to be appointed at the outset, at what salaries, and under what conditions; (c) courses of study to be undertaken; (d) fees to be charged to students; (e) buildings that would be required and the most suitable arrangement with regard thereto; (f) estimated cost with regard to (1) initial expenditure, and (2) annual expenditure; (g) estimated revenue; and (h) generally to make such recommendations as may seem fit in connection with the foundation and establishment of a university.

Register, Feb. 15th 09.

WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

GENEROUS OFFER BY DR. HACKETT.

PERTH, February 14.

The initial meeting of the newly appointed royal commission to enquire into and report upon the advisableness of establishing a university in this State was held on Thursday. A subcommittee was appointed to obtain full information from the universities of Australia, America, and the old world regarding the matter with which the commission was appointed to deal. As Chairman, the Hon. Dr. Hackett, M.L.C., proposed to pay a visit to England in the course of the next month or so. He was specially deputed to make enquiry in person regarding the constitution, working, and studies in respect to the universities of the United Kingdom, and particularly those more recently established. During the course of remarks to other members, Dr. Hackett stated that he was prepared to find funds so soon as the university is in working order sufficient to provide for the foundation of a Chair of Agriculture. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Hackett for the promise. It was felt that this was not only a munificent and generous offer, but more than this was the crowning of that public service which Dr. Hackett has for so many years given to the State of Western Australia.