

# The Register.

ADELAIDE: TUESDAY, FEB. 13, 1883.

## THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

We have before us the University calendar for the current year. The volume also contains the annual report and the financial statement for 1882. With regard to the calendar there is not much to say. It differs but little from its predecessors, except that the information is brought up to date, and for some reason, possibly on the score of economy, the Standing Orders of the Senate are omitted. The report also is very similar to those which have been published in past years. It summarizes very briefly most of the important events in the history of the University during the twelve months. Many of them are matters of detail as to which full information was given in these columns at the time when they occurred, and they do not call for further notice. A few lines are devoted to the formal opening of the University Buildings which took place in April last, but the references to that interesting event are about as meagre as they well can be. So also are the allusions to the courses of evening lectures delivered during the year, the extent of the information furnished beyond the mere fact of their delivery being that they were well attended. Equally scanty are the records of the establishment of the faculty of law, a subject which has on several occasions been fully discussed in these columns. The only paragraph which has the slightest spark of enthusiasm in it is that which refers to Dr. Stirling's lectures on physiology. The marked popularity of these lectures seems to have startled so unimpressionable a body as the Council of the University into something like an expression of more than ordinary official approval, and the sum generously offered by Sir Thomas Elder for prizes supplied a useful stimulus to students of these classes. With regard to the University work generally, the report throws no additional light upon the state of affairs, which has been more than once dealt with by us during the last few months. In 1882 four students began their undergraduate course, as against five in 1881. Three completed the first year, one the second, and two the third year of their studies for the B.A. degree. The figures for 1881 were respectively three, four, and six. In nearly all these departments, therefore, there was a marked retrogression. In 1882 there were twelve undergraduates and ninety-nine students, of whom fifty-seven were women, attending various courses of lectures. In 1881 there were fifteen undergraduates and fifty-nine students. Again, therefore, as regards the University proper



there was a going back, though it is satisfactory to find that the lectures attracted a larger number of non-matriculated students. There was also a falling-off in the numbers going up for matriculation, but a very large increase in the competitors entering for the Junior, which takes the place of the old Primary Examination. One pleasing feature of the year's work is that there were eligible and successful candidates for the three University Scholarships, for the John Howard Clark Scholarship, for the Angas Engineering Scholarship, and for the South Australian Scholarship; but unless the number of matriculated students is at least maintained it is to be feared that the competition for these valuable prizes will not be kept up in future years.

Into the various causes which have led to the present condition of the University we do not purpose to enter just now. A matter that requires most serious and prompt attention is the financial condition of the University, which is exceedingly unsatisfactory. The accounts this year are presented in a somewhat more intelligible form than hitherto, but even now they hardly convey to the ordinary reader a true idea of the extent to which the University has been crippled by bad management. The income of the institution from its commencement to the end of last year was £52,072 13s. 10d. The principal items are—Interest, £17,560; rents, £15,921; Government subsidy, £16,293. Instead of this large income being devoted to maintaining the University, only £36,142 was so used, leaving a balance of £15,930 on December 31. Next we come to the Endowment Fund, which amounts altogether to £41,250. Of this £21,950 is invested in mortgages at from 5½ to 7 per cent., £6,000 is deposited with the Banks at 5, and £4,500 at 6 per cent., leaving a sum of £8,800 uninvested, and therefore bearing no interest, and involving a loss of about £530 annually to the University, reckoning the interest at 6 per cent., and of considerably more when we take into account the loss of the Government subsidy. It is evident, too, that the sums invested either on mortgage or on deposit at the Banks have only been so invested during a part of the year, for the total interest received during the twelve months was only £1,478, whereas the interest on £32,000 at 5 per cent. only would amount to £1,600. If the whole of the £41,250 had been invested on mortgage at 6 per cent. it would bring in annually upwards of £2,400, or £1,000 more than was received for interest last year.