

The
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land and leave for Australia, and accordingly some of the Australian Universities have, quite fairly enough, been forced to fix the salaries of Professorships at from £1,000 to £1,500. Having made considerable efforts and gone to great expense in securing able men for its University teaching staff, the colony is now in the humiliating condition of confessing that it cannot find a suitable head for the institution as a whole. In view of the increasing importance of the matters which have to be controlled by the Chancellor, it is highly undesirable that this really distressing modesty should be persisted in any longer.

It is not our intention to find fault with the University, as Mr. Rees has done in the Assembly, for not performing that which no University under the sun ever undertook to do, namely, to teach workmen their trades, and thus enable builders and architects to quote lower figures for their contracts. It is not easy to gather from his strictures his precise complaint against the institution, but he seems to entertain the idea that the University ought to teach house-decorating work, and to labour under some such fond delusion as that working lads would pay £12 or £15 a year, or at any rate work without wages, for getting experience which they might obtain in a superior tradesman's workshop without fee and with wages. If the working classes are to be reached by extra technical instruction it should be through the medium of State Schools and Schools of Design, and not merely through an institution whose benefits must be confined to the comparatively few. It is hard of Mr. Rees to infer the existence of a "ring" in the University from the fact of its not having accomplished that which has never been done by any institution of the kind. The defects of the University are already glaring enough without laying to its charge gross neglect in respect of matters not coming properly within the sphere of its duties.

From the Register Oct 21/12

PROFESSOR LAMB'S LECTURE ON
ELECTRICITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—In your report this morning of my last lecture on "Electric-lighting, &c." I am made to express, on a practical point, an opinion which might seriously mislead any one who trusted to it. As the report stands it conveys an impression that I instituted a comparison between the modern types of the Gramme and Siemens dynamo-electric machines, greatly to the advantage of the former. The comparison really made was between the old form of "Siemens armature" and the Gramme ring, with which the "drum" used in the modern type of Siemens machine has in principle many points in common.

I am also represented at the end of your report as having "apologized for the necessarily imperfect means at my disposal." I should have been very unjust to the University Council, who have always dealt very liberally with me in such matters, if I had said anything of the kind. What I did apologize for was the imperfect way in which, for want of time, I had been obliged to treat several very important parts of my subject. There are several other inaccuracies in your report, but as they relate chiefly to theoretical points, it is, perhaps, hardly necessary that I should do more than disclaim responsibility for them.

I am, Sir, &c.,

H. LAMB.

October 21, 1882.

[We regret that Professor Lamb has not taken the trouble to point out the "several other inaccuracies" to which he alludes as appearing in our short paragraph describing his lecture.—ED.]

From the Register
October 23

THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I think the speech of Mr. Rees re University has been rather misunderstood, and that the allusion to technological matters reached beyond the idea of simply applying to the requirements of tradesmen in general; and I must say that practical applied science is of more importance than a knowledge of what are called the Classics and ancient literature. As to a Professor of Law, it is a waste of money, as the very practice of law matters in our Courts itself intensifies the talent. It is reported that the Classical Professor has a sinecure, and that the lectures were discontinued as no one cared about them. If this be true, I think the money might well be transferred to the Director of a School of Mines, and I regret to see in the report of the South Australian Institute the remark "We shall have a Technological Museum in course of time." This should be the first thing thought of instead of the last, although as a naturalist of fifty years I must certainly admire the fine report and suggestions of the new Curator, Dr. Haacke, who is a highly talented and advanced scientist, and will make our Museum as grand an institution as Dr. Schomburgk has our beautiful Gardens, and I would grudge no money required to carry out exactly what he proposes. But the other should be done too. I believe the ideas which influenced Mr. Rees were more of the nature implied in the following extract from the *Adelaide Advertiser*, October, 1880:—"What is absolutely required in South Australia is a School of Mines, formulated on the basis of those workings so advantageously to the communities of many of the sister colonies, and illustrating the nature and variety of their mineral resources, after the model of the London Museum of Geology, as an educational factor,