

The CHIEF JUSTICE (Chancellor of the University) moved—"That this meeting is of opinion that the establishment of evening classes at the Adelaide University would be a great public benefit." He was sure that His Excellency's support of the movement might be taken as an augury of its success. (Applause.) Only two years ago His Excellency, in addressing the members of the University, said it would be a good thing if a Chair of Music could be established, and owing to His Excellency's exertions in this direction the Professor of Music would enter upon his duties in a few days. (Applause.) His official connection with the University gave him no embarrassment whatever in supporting the motion. The subject of the establishment of evening classes had been before the Senate of the University, and that body had recorded resolutions affirming the desirableness of establishing such classes in connection with the University. (Hear, hear.) The Vice-Chancellor had identified himself and placed himself at the head of this movement both in the Press and in the Council of the University. The Professors also would give their hearty co-operation to the movement, because they had already shown that they were desirous of increasing the usefulness of the University. Professor Boulger had established French classes, although the results in that individual case were not so satisfactory as could be desired. While the Council had not yet taken any steps in the matter, the individual members sympathized with it. The question was one of money, as all the present funds of the University were needful for other objects. He was also glad to see that the head masters and members of the scholastic profession were entirely in sympathy with the movement, and did not regard it as trenching on their work. (Hear, hear.) The first question was whether evening classes could be considered as within the proper functions of a University. This aspect of the matter had been dealt with by a writer of considerable experience in an article published in one of the newspapers of that morning, and that gentleman had pointed out that the true function of a University was to teach—the highest class of teaching—and not merely to grant degrees. This function had been recognised by the University of Adelaide, which did not close its doors to non-graduating students, and at the present time had about twice as many non-graduating as graduating students. (Applause.) There were about fifty graduating students and 100 non-graduating. If it were then within the functions of the University to teach non-graduating students it was also within its functions to conduct evening classes. Upon a question of the kind, as a lawyer, he would refer to two precedents. There was the Victoria University, which had been evolved from Owen's College, Manchester, of which the Vice-Chancellor was so distinguished a student—(applause)—which carried on the lectures held during the evening at Owen's College. Then if they turned to the University of Sydney they would find that last year, owing to the advocacy of the late Professor Boulger, the leading spirit in classical study and an ornament to Australian letters, evening classes had been established with considerable success to cover the whole



University curriculum. The means for this work, which cost about a thousand a year, were provided by Parliament, and it was not irrelevant to turn to what had been done at that University for an indication of what might be expected in Adelaide. He had only been able to get the report of 1883, and from that he gathered that they commenced work with twenty-three graduating students and eleven non-gratuating. It might be thought that this was rather disappointing in a place three times as large as Adelaide, but an explanation would be found in the fact that in Sydney they had already in existence, before these University classes were established, a Technical College, endowed with £15,000, which gave lectures in the evening on all the subjects taught in the University. So that although there were during the past year only thirty or forty students attending these classes, there was no reason why the number should not be very much greater in Adelaide. (Applause.) It would have been better perhaps if they had had more precise information on the subject, but a member of the preceptors' Association had informed the Senate of the University that thirty members of the teaching profession would join these evening classes if they were established; and in addition they were approved of by those enthusiasts in scholarship—the College masters. (Applause.) He did not doubt that if these classes were established; they would be attended not only by many of the 1,500 members of the Literary Societies, but others as well.

Mr. T. A. CATERER, B.A., seconded the motion, and observed that the movement for the establishment of the classes had attracted a great deal of attention from the Collegiate Schools' Association, consisting of masters, mistresses, and assistants of those schools which prepare students for the University. The movement was first of all brought before the Association by the Warden of the Senate (Mr. Chapple), and at a special committee meeting held subsequently to consider it, it was resolved



to send circulars to the Young Men's Societies connected with the Union so as to bring the suggestion under the notice of those desiring to go in for self-culture. Replies were received from twenty Societies in favour of the classes. With regard to the statement of the Chancellor that there were about thirty or forty members of the Collegiate Schools' Association who would join the classes, it should be that that number of persons connected with teaching, but not necessarily devoting all their attention to that calling, would avail themselves of them. The number would be very greatly increased if anything definite could be placed before them. No doubt there were difficulties in the way of the realization of their object, but they could be overcome.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Rev. W. R. FEETCHER, M.A. (Vice-Chancellor), moved—"That an effort should be made to raise a sum of at least £5,000 to provide an Endowment Fund for carrying on the evening classes." They were all, he thought, of one mind that it would be a good thing if these classes could be established in connection with the University. It was not intended in any way to lower the standard of degrees granted by the University, which should be maintained as high as possible. An Adelaide degree, in fact, should be equal to a degree granted in any University, in the world. But there should also, he contended, be educational facilities for such students as did not want to obtain degrees. The principal question was how to find the money. He thought £5,000 would be sufficient to begin with. By investing at 6 per cent., and by the addition of the 5 per cent. which the Government would grant on any endowment under a certain sum, they would have 11 per cent. interest, or an annual sum at their disposal of about £500. Allowing a guinea or a guinea and a half for each lecture they would be able to arrange for about ten classes—two in mathematics (a lower and a higher), two in Latin, one in Greek, and the remainder in natural and physical science, English, political economy, or similar subjects. The Victoria University had adopted an excellent plan of publishing a list of subjects on which a course of lectures would be given, but if ten students did not enrol themselves on the first night the course was not continued. He thought that there should be a certain set of the classes for preparing students for a B.A. degree, and others at which instruction should be given without any regard to a degree. Gentlemen who had made themselves masters in any particular branch might co-operate and give their services if they wished as lecturers. He thought they would have no difficulty in obtaining plenty of students out of the 1,500 lady and gentleman members of the Literary Societies in Adelaide, nor would much difficulty be found in obtaining the necessary funds, as if 100 persons gave £25 each—in fact several friends might combine to furnish the sum named—they would have half the required amount, and the balance might be made up by large donations.

Mr. F. CHAPPLE, B.A., B.Sc., Warden of the Senate, seconded the motion, pointing out that evening classes were the rule, and not the exception, in the leading seats of learning in England, and that a large proportion of those who obtained degrees at the



London University obtained their education in that way. He thought the previous speaker had omitted the fees of the students in his calculation, and this item ought to provide for a couple more courses of evening lectures.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Bishop KENNION next moved—"That this meeting requests the committee of the Adelaide Literary Societies to collect funds for the establishment of evening classes at the University, and to enrol the names of intending students." Although quite unprepared to take part in the present meeting, he was ready to do his very utmost to cooperate with those who were working in this movement. Every one would allow that an ideal state of education in any community would admit of the very poorest lad in it passing through efficient primary schools, continuing his education in second-grade schools of a higher stamp, and then completing it in a university if he desired to do so in after-life. He thought the work of the University should be extended not only in Adelaide, but throughout the whole colony. He would go one step further, and say that the University, in virtue of its very existence, had the responsibility of carrying out this work. (Applause.) If it was to efficiently carry out the education of the country it must rise to such a position as this, and it must find a way of discharging its responsibility. The responsibility of choosing the teachers—a most serious one—would rest with the University. It was most encouraging that the young men should express their willingness to be taught, but it would depend entirely upon the class of teachers that the University was able to present that the classes would be successful in accomplishing the objects they all had in view. He hoped the University would see its way to consult with some other body outside of itself to help it in its work. The University to which he had belonged in England was beginning to extend its work in giving an education to