

Register March 31/07.

THE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—In the latest of your periodic attacks upon the working system of our University (I refer to your leader in Tuesday's issue) the award of two of this year's University scholarships is objected to. I think that at any rate in this case you are in the wrong. You say that these scholarships are plainly intended to be an inducement to lads to become students at the University, for that one of the conditions expressly states that successful competitors must as soon as possible after the examination become students at the University. The only objection that can possibly be raised against these scholarships being awarded to students at the University must be based upon a rigid and literal interpretation of this condition. And I am going to make so bold as to differ in a slight respect from your interpretation of it. I say that the words of the condition are a convenient way of stating that the money of a scholarship is to be made use of in enabling the successful competitor either to start a course at the University or to continue a course he may have begun (possibly in the hope of being able to complete it by winning one of these scholarships in a subsequent year), and I also say that had the Education Department foreseen such a dispute as this a clause would have been inserted to render University students eligible. I make this statement relying on a most decisive fact, viz., that twice previously—and one case was exactly parallel to the present one—a scholarship has been awarded to a student at the University. The writer of the article further states that it is unfair for schoolboys to be pitted against second or third year students. Why didn't he say against graduates too? He evidently overlooked an insignificant qualification necessary for all candidates, yet one at least somewhat unusual in third year students or graduates. I mean that condition which insists upon all candidates being under 18 years of age. Is it then a discredit for a boy under 18 to be a student of a University? Must he forfeit the prize he wins because he is pitted against schoolboys, though they are of his own age? Rather, I think, is he all the more entitled to it. One portion of the article I agree with—that the Education Department should not be bothered about the subject, for I must confess I cannot understand how the University Council, having the two precedents to act by, can have entertained such a shallow objection and have troubled the Education Department about such a transparent difficulty, especially as that department had already certified that the two students were eligible to compete. But the most objectionable part of the article comes at the end, where the writer actually stigmatizes the action of the two students as "pot-hunting." Surely this is too hard on them. Must a University student perforce be so well off that, even in the present not too prosperous times, he cannot earn any pecuniary help for himself

without being styled "pot-hunter?" I suppose, too, the thing is entirely devoid of honour for the wretched students, though as far as I can ascertain they had only their vacation to prepare the work in, whereas the other candidates had been at the work for the past fifteen months.

I am, Sir, &c.,

O. K. J.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP.—Frank Sandland Hone, who has just been placed at the top of the list of the successful candidates for the University Scholarships, has had a most satisfactory school career. In December, 1883, he obtained the first place on the list of exhibitioners from the State schools, having been prepared for that examination at the Sturt-street school. He then entered Prince Alfred College. In December, 1884, he obtained a first class at the University junior examination, and in December, 1885, a second class at the matriculation examination. By June, 1886, he had become Dux of the Sixth Form at the College, and at Christmas, 1886, he carried off the Old Collegians' Scholarship. His recent success is all the more creditable to him because he had to compete this time against students from the University. These scholarships have hitherto been regarded as entrance scholarships, and taken by boys at school who sought to earn pecuniary aid to enable them to proceed to the University, but upon the present occasion students from the University competed for them. They had been taught by the Professors who were appointed examiners, a manifest advantage for them. In spite of this Hone, coming up straight from his College, secured the highest place on the list.

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NEW DEPARTURE IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Allow me as a parent and a citizen to enter my vehement protest against the policy of the Government in subordinating itself to the craze of the Education Department for more patronage and power, as indicated by Dr. Cockburn's speech at Strathalbyn. The doctor says that the Government suspects that some private schools are not highly efficient, and therefore proposes to assume the right of inspecting all schools, and as a set-off to give a capitation grant for each child who passes the compulsory standard. First of all, let me ask who is the Government? What does Mr. Bray care about this, or Mr. Furner, or Mr. Howe, or even Mr. Murray? I say that the Government is a euphemism for Mr. Hartley. Mr. Hartley is a strong man, and like other strong men needs to be kept in his place, which unfortunately for the colony has seldom happened to him, by reason of the practice generally to put the weakest Minister in the Education Department. This man is like Behemoth, and is ever ready to devour. If he had his way, I doubt not he would control the colleges, and the University, and ultimately go in for educating the professors. Therefore, let me repeat, and ask my fellow-colonists to remember, that in all matters relating to education the Government means the department, and the department means Mr. Hartley. Against his strong will and persistent efforts a shifting minister, here to-day and gone to-morrow, is as a nobody. It will be recollected that Mr. Hartley tried once before to get private schools under his rule and governance, and there is less reason for it now than ever there was. It would be a retrograde and mischievous policy even without the monetary question. But to attempt such a policy at this time of deficit and further taxation is what none but a martinet and a pedagogue would attempt, and what fools and imbeciles would allow. The mere inspection and reporting on private schools would require extra inspectors, and so greater expenditure. But note the bait offered. A capitation grant? To whom to be given I would like to know? To the schoolmaster? He is already sufficiently well paid, as proved by his carrying on his avocation. To the parent? He is well enough off, else would not send his children to a private school. The truth is that this craze for expenditure and craving for power on the part of the Education Department has increased, is increasing, and must be diminished. I am one of the rapidly-increasing number of South Australians who believe that the standard must be lowered, and who think with Mr. Rounsevell that the cost of the Education Department must be diminished by about half, and who regret that the Council of Education—that wise control upon a despotic official—was ever swept away. I don't know whether you will allow me through your columns to advocate a return to the policy of the *Advertiser* at the time Mr. Ward's Act passed viz., a free education only to those who could not afford to pay. But we must come again to that some day.—I am, &c.,

PARENT.

The advertiser April 4th 1887.

Mr. J. C. Wharton, of Trinity College, Dublin, has been appointed by the council of the Adelaide University evening class lecturer on English language and literature. He will begin his lectures on Wednesday, April 13, at 6.30 p.m., and continue them every succeeding Wednesday at the same hour. Herr Kirchner has been appointed evening class lecturer on German, and M. Aucher evening class lecturer on French. The German and French lectures will also commence on April 13, and will be held every week on the same day at 7.30 p.m.