

The house committee reported that they had conferred with Messrs. E. T. Smith, A. Adamson, and J. J. P. Conigrave relative to the application received from the committee of the Jubilee Exhibition for the use of a portion of the hospital enclosure for the storage of empty cases, and they recommended that the use of that portion of the enclosure now in the occupation of the Agricultural Society should be granted on the following terms:—That the Exhibition committee satisfy the board that corporation by-law No. 44, prohibiting the storage of empty cases, &c., within the city bounds does not, and will not, apply to the land applied for; that an 8 feet picket fence be erected by the Exhibition committee on the northern boundary of the hospital enclosure from Frome-road to the Botanic Garden fence; that the cases be packed near the picket fence, and not higher than 12 feet; that the lids of the cases be refixed; that no crates, straw, packing, or other material likely to occasion spontaneous combustion be stored on the ground; that a hydrant be erected in the vicinity of the cases, and that a watchman be in constant attendance from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. The committee further reported that the recommendation of the medical committee for the provision of a strong room had been dealt with, and that its fuller consideration had been postponed.

The sub-committee appointed to superintend arrangements for the disposal of patients during the time occupied in effecting the proposed alterations and additions to the Hospital buildings reported that they had made application for the use of the old exhibition building as an out-patients' dispensary; that the alterations to the University College had been effected; that canvas wings had been added to the patients' recreation-shed; and that it was intended to hand the western wing over to the contractor for alterations early next week provided the application for the exhibition building was granted. Adopted.

Miles Moorhouse, student of the London Missionary Society, and at present "studying medicine at the University in a somewhat informal manner," applied for liberty to attend at the hospital under the same circumstances and conditions as medical students at the Adelaide University during the remainder of the year 1887. Application to be granted on payment of the usual fees.

The house-surgeon's report for the fortnight ended March 24 was as follows:—Admitted, 71; discharged, 80; died, 6; now in hospital, 156; outpatients treated, 563, of whom 95 were new. Causes of deaths—Enteric fever, 2; abscess of liver, 1; fracture of spine, 1; hydatid of liver, 1; phthisis, 1.

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Register March 29<sup>th</sup> 1857

## UNIVERSITY REFORMS.

The reorganization and extension of the University courses have opened up several questions of great importance, not only to students, but also to the public generally. One of these is as to whether we are to have lady doctors. A lady having applied for admission as a student for the recently-arranged medical course, the Council took advice on the subject and found that there is no reason in law why a lady should not be allowed to pass as a medical practitioner if her abilities and diligence entitle her to take the requisite degree. The question of expediency, however, had still to be considered. Was it advisable that students of both sexes should be admitted to attend the same classroom and receive instruction in medical subjects? In London this aspect of the question was at one time very much debated, and, as Dr. Stirling has pointed out, a separate Medical School for females has for some time enabled the authorities to overcome the difficulty. In a place like Adelaide, where the resources are limited, of course such an arrangement is out of the question. Either we must exclude ladies from the medical course or we must admit them like other students

to the ordinary lectures. In the majority of University cities on the Continent of Europe and in America, as well as in Sydney and quite recently in Melbourne, it has been arranged that female medical students can attend the same lectures as the others. Practically the difficulty was found to be purely one of administration. So long as the ladies are allowed to occupy a particular portion of the classrooms by themselves, and are enabled to carry on practical anatomical and clinical studies separately from the male students, there is nothing in the arrangement which should necessarily offend even the most fastidious taste. So far as the public interests are concerned it is of very great importance that for the carrying out of some branches of medical work the services of female practitioners should be available, and there is no reason why the University of Adelaide should not adopt a reform which has been inaugurated by common consent in almost every University throughout the civilized world.

But there is another new departure to which the University has committed itself, and one, too, of an even more important nature than that to which we have already referred. By the regulations for the Higher Public Examination it is contemplated that students of the age of 18 years and upwards may take up the subjects of the B.A. and B.Sc. courses, and get credit for all those in which they pass quite irrespective of the question whether they have satisfied the examiners in a set number of subjects in each year of their course. This is obviously a very important concession, and was intended specially for the benefit of students such as teachers and others who are unable to attend lectures, and have to give their attention to business during the day. No restriction was laid down excepting that the students who go up for the higher public examinations shall be at least 18 years of age before they first present themselves. But one student who has already passed

his first year's examinations in Arts and Sciences has put the question whether he will be allowed to come under this new regulation. In other words, he wished to know whether if he passed in some of the subjects for the second year, but not in others, his passes in those in which he had been successful would be counted to his credit. The Council in reply have approved of the principle that students under the ordinary regulations should be allowed to place themselves under the Higher Public Examination scheme, and *vice versa*. The significance of this step is apparent. No student likes to be forced to take up five subjects over again, merely because he has failed in one. Obviously it would be far better for him to have the four in which he has passed counted to his credit and then to be allowed to devote his sole energies to the single subject in which he has been proved deficient.

So the knowing ones among the students will probably proceed at once to enter themselves under the Higher Public Examination regulations. Indeed there is no reason in common sense why they should not be allowed to claim credit for each subject as soon as they have passed in it. The ordinary division of the University curriculum into a fixed set of subjects for each year is founded upon the idea that a student, to become an