

In fact Owens College, Manchester, had to run the gauntlet of precisely the same kind of criticism and faultfinding that has been bestowed upon the similar institutions in Melbourne and Adelaide. The professors were asked to lower the standard of their teaching, and to "popularise the classes." It would have been an evil day for the college if they had listened to this popular clamor. They refused, in the words of the principal, "to compete with the schools rather than fail to fulfil the proper destination of a college." Students came, however, in the course of years. In all the classes together there were only 62 the first year, and of those about a third came from the Lancashire Independent College. Time wrought wonders. The schools improved under the stimulus of such an example, and sent up more numerous and better equipped young men as students, and as soon as this result began to manifest itself the ultimate success of the college was an assured fact.

The ugly old family mansion of Mr. Cobden became in time too small for the efficient working of the college. The number of students had in 1872 reached a thousand. A new building was required. Subscriptions were solicited; some acceptable windfalls in the shape of large legacies assisted in the work. A site and plans were selected, and the first part of that great and noble pile of buildings which now stands not far from where John Owens himself lived was erected. This building is one of the finest and most complete educational colleges in the world, and when completed will be almost without a rival. Owens College, like all noble institutions and noble-minded men, has had to pass through a feverish fit of ambition. It aimed at being transformed by royal charter from being simply a college affiliated to the London University into being a university in itself. This was not to be. To lift a young and upstart institution into a position higher than that of any of the venerable colleges of Oxford or Cambridge was looked upon as absurd. Some very angry things were said and written by various learned dons about this conceited rival in the midst of the cotton-spinners of Lancashire. The end was, however, gained in reality though not in name. A new university was founded in Manchester under the title of the Victoria University, and Owens College was to be affiliated thereto, and was to have such a share in the management of it that to all intents and purposes they are like one institution. They are distinct in theory, and probably as other colleges are founded

in other cities will ultimately be distinct in practice, but at present this distinctness is hardly visible. The two institutions together form "The University of the Busy."

I cannot close this paper without making some reference to the evening classes which have become so famous as an adjunct to Owens College, and which we have been successful in initiating in Adelaide. I quote Alderman Thompson's own words as the best description I can give of the formation of these evening classes:—"The origin of the movement was as follows:—In the year 1858 a number of gentlemen set on foot a Working Man's College in Manchester. Their object was to afford to artisans and other wage-earning workmen an opportunity of acquiring, at a very moderate cost, instruction of a sound and fundamental character in the several branches of a liberal education. For three years the experiment was carried on successfully, when difficulties arose as to a suitable place of meeting and as to funds; and the committee, earnestly desiring to carry on the scheme as a permanent arrangement without sacrificing its thoroughness, invited the trustees of Owens College to make such modifications in their plan of evening classes as would enable all or nearly all of those who had sought the benefit of the Manchester Working Man's College to enter the classes of Owens College. The trustees regarded the suggestion with approval; the classes were subdivided to meet the requirements of the new order of students, and gentlemen from outside cooperated with the regular staff of the college in the course of teaching."

Having been myself one of the first students of Owens College, and having watched its struggles, its difficulties, and its successes from the years when it was looked upon as a "ridiculously ambitious grammar school" to the present time when it commands the respect of the whole of the learned world, I am emboldened to hope and to expect similar successes for our own University. There is not the same population to work upon here, and so it is impossible for the Adelaide University to vie in numbers with Owens College, but it is possible for our University to accomplish for this colony the same good and useful work that has been accomplished for Manchester by the "University of the Busy."

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ADELAIDE HOSPITAL BOARD.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25.

Present—The Hon. A. Catt, M.P. (in the chair), Hon. M. Salom, M.L.C., Messrs. E. T. Smith, M.P. (Mayor of Adelaide), W. Gilbert, M.P., F. Basedow, M.P., T. Graves, W. Kither, and Drs. Robertson, Gardiner, Stirling, Ellison, Sprod, Way, and Thomas.

The Hon. J. Colton was elected chairman for the ensuing year.

The Secretary reported the receipt of £30 from the estate of the late Wm. Thornton per Mr. C. C. Kingston, M.P.

Dr. Hayward wrote, withdrawing his application for re-election as an honorary physician to the hospital, circumstances having arisen that would prevent his fulfilling the duties if he were elected.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Honorary physician, Dr. Thomas; honorary surgeon, Dr. Görger; honorary ophthalmic surgeon, Dr. M. J. Symons; honorary assistant physician, Dr. A. A. Lendon; and honorary surgeon, Dr. M. R. H. Jay. The house and medical committees were reappointed.

Dr. Way proposed that the rules for the admission of medical students to the practice of the institution, which had been laid on the table, should be adopted. He explained that a medical school had been established in connection with the University, and as it was necessary that the students should receive hospital work, the University had requested that they should be allowed to obtain this at the institution. As a result of this request, a committee, appointed by the board, met a committee from the University, and the required rules were drawn up. They were simply a modification of the old ones. The majority of the rules were approved of, certain details, however, being referred to the house committee.

Dr. Thomas, recognising that not more than three members of the honorary medical staff of the hospital could be members of the board of management at the same time, resigned his position on the board.

In a report furnished by the sub-committee appointed to deal with the question of appointment of nurses and matters relating to nursing generally, it was recommended with regard to day nurses that there should be one wardman, 12 charge nurses—11 for the general wards and one for the infectious diseases wards—12 assistant nurses, and eight pupil nurses to act as day or night nurses as directed; that a course of 12 lectures on the principles and practice of nursing should be given annually during the winter months by the resident medical officers, which the nursing staff generally might, and pupil nurses would be expected to, attend—an examination to be held by the lecturers at the end of the course. Regarding night nurses it was recommended that there should be two wardmen and two charge nurses, while in addition three or four of the pupil nurses should take night duty alternately with day duty for one month at a time. A few amendments were made in the rules, which were referred to a committee, consisting of the Hon. A. Catt and Drs. Gardiner and Sprod, to revise.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman of the house committee (Hon. M. Salom) for his past services.