

The Register.

ADELAIDE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1886.

THE NEW UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS.

At the meeting of the Council of the University of Adelaide, reported in last Monday's *Register*, Dr. Barlow carried a motion—"That attention be called to the powers of the Senate as to approving proposed statutes and regulations," and it was further arranged that committees of the Council should be appointed to confer with the Senate upon the matter. If we rightly understand Dr. Barlow, his motion was prompted by the proceedings in the Senate when the new regulations concerning the preliminary, junior, and senior examinations were submitted. It was then ruled by the Warden that the Senate had power only to accept or to reject the regulations submitted by the Council. It was not, according to Mr. Chapple, possible to amend them—to accept one or to reject another, or to recommend amendments. This position is to the lay mind assailable, but none of the legal members of the Senate cared to question it. The difficulty of acting under such a conception of the law was made plainly manifest on that occasion. There we had the Council, the majority of whose members have no practical experience of University proceedings in arts. Nevertheless, they carried their point against the Senate, which is composed of graduates only, and which, besides, contains a large number of men who have an intimate acquaintance with the practical work of education. Dr. Barlow's motion does not dispose of the difficulty; it only opens the way to its discussion. It is not to be doubted, however, but that much good may result from the meeting of the proposed committees, and there is the more chance of the meeting taking place because the Council, having secured everything they desired for the present, may well be ready

to take steps for the settlement of difficulties that may arise in the future. The Senate should certainly not be reduced to the position of a mere registration board for the decrees of the Council. This is true of most Universities; but the principle specially applies to the Adelaide University, where the Senate contains none but men who have had the advantage of a University training; whereas of the twenty members of the Council only ten have graduated in arts, five have graduated only in law or medicine, and five have gained no academical distinction.

There is, however, this consolation—that the Council, whose regulations cannot be amended by a constituent part of the University Legislature, seem to be amenable to suggestions from people outside. There is, for instance, the question of matriculation. In treating of the new regulations concerning the public examinations we ventured to point out that no provision had been made for entrance upon the University course. The Council had busied itself to a great extent in devising plans whereby the wish of the schools could be gauged, but, so far as could be gathered from their proposals, it had not occurred to them that their function was primarily to provide a higher education.

This defect, which subsequent to the publication of our remarks the spokesman of the Council assured the Senate would be attended to, is supplied by the regulations before us. From the printed schedules of the courses for the new examinations and for the arts and law schools we gather that there is a kind of double-barrelled arrangement which is now to do duty for the old matriculation examination. Under the first "students who in the senior public examination pass in Latin, Greek, and mathematics may be enrolled as matriculated students in arts;" and under the second, those who have not complied with these conditions "may, nevertheless, be enrolled as matriculated students on satisfying the Professors in the Faculty of Arts that they have sufficient knowledge to enable them to enter upon the first year's course." This arrangement is, generally speaking, satisfactory. Its latter part is open to the objection that some boys may pass their matriculation with greater ease than others. But this may safely be left to the Professors, who, at the very worst, are not likely to encourage students who do not seem to be up to the mark, and who would therefore give them more trouble. A noticeable point in the first part of the arrangement is that classics and mathematics are both regarded as necessary to entrance upon a University course. This will tend to counteract the pernicious tendency of the new regulations to encourage a knowledge or rather a smattering of many things. Under them, as we pointed out in writing upon the subject, a boy or girl might gain all but the highest honours in the public examinations without knowing any Latin, or Greek, or mathematics. The great point gained is that the matriculation is now more natural. It cannot be taken as the copestone of education; it does not rank so high even as the senior public examination; it is now for the first time, what it always should have been, merely the first step on the road to University education.

With regard to the schedules themselves, we presume that all formalities have been observed. The regulations prescribe that the schedules shall be published "not less than fifteen calendar months before the date of the examination to which they are intended to apply." A special provision is made for the examinations of 1887, concerning which it is arranged that the schedule of subjects may be published "within one month of the confirmation of these regulations by the Governor." This condition has presumably been fulfilled. For the rest it would appear that the object sought in the arrangement of the schedules was to make the public examinations easier than they formerly were. English is perhaps an exception. Under this heading in the junior examination stand "Outlines of the History of England," Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" and "Traveller," and the "Outlines of geography, especially the geography of Australasia, including the elements of physical geography." By what process of reasoning the Council came to the conclusion that physical geography can fitly be classed under "English" as a generic term we are at a loss to understand. But they have so concluded, and so there is no more to be said. It is, however, worth pointing out that "Outlines of the History of England"