

Advertiser. 2 Feb 1892

Mr. J. W. Tyas, who for a number of years has held the position of registrar of the University of Adelaide, has resigned that office on account of ill health. The council of the University at a meeting held on Friday last resolved that "the council has heard with great regret of the illness which has caused the resignation by Mr. Tyas of the office of registrar, and while accepting the resignation from the end of February, records its grateful sense of the services which he has rendered to the University for so many years." Mr. Tyas, who has been ill for some months past, is now staying at Port Elliot.

Mr Tyas.

The Register.

ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, FEB. 6, 1892.

WOMEN IN THE PROFESSIONS.

The appointment of Miss Fowler, M.B. and Ch.B. as House Surgeon at the Children's Hospital, helps to bring to one's recollection the remarkable changes which public opinion has undergone during the last twenty years. Some of the changes have come about so quietly that they are apt to be unnoticed unless attention is specially directed to them. Some of our readers are old enough to remember the ludicrous stories that used to be told of the women's rights movements in the United States before the first half of the present century was completed. In England the modern agitation on this subject dates from the appearance of an article dealing with it in the *Westminster Review* in 1851. The equally important and in some respects more useful movement in favour of the higher education of women was greatly advanced by the report of the English Royal Commission on Secondary Schools issued in 1868. During the last twenty years wonderful progress has been made. The names of various institutions in Great Britain which are devoted to the higher education of women would make a long list, and the results which have been achieved bear witness to the

thoroughness of the work done by them. The difficulties encountered by Miss Jex Blake and others when studying for the medical degree are known to many of our readers. Although some of the older Universities, whilst admitting women to examinations and giving them certificates, withhold the ordinary University degrees, there is no doubt that these prejudices are gradually fading away. Instead of wasting time upon abstract discussions upon the equality of the sexes women who have had the welfare of their sex at heart have laboured earnestly in the cause of the higher education of women, and the movement has progressed even more rapidly than might have been expected considering the prejudices that had to be overcome.

It is twelve years since the Adelaide University Act was amended so as to allow of women being admitted upon the same conditions as men to the degrees which the University was entitled to confer. When the Medical School was established a few years afterwards, and especially when the arrangements were completed for giving the full course of instruction, there were a good many misgivings as to the expediency of admitting women to the medical course. Like many other difficulties, these were exaggerated by imagination, and have all been overcome by the exercise of tact and determination.

Miss Fowler.

Miss Fowler is the first female student who has completed the medical course and received the degrees of M.B. and Ch.B. Among the questions discussed when it was proposed to throw open the Medical School here to women was the improbability of their finding any scope for the exercise of their profession after they had become duly qualified. It may be regarded as a happy omen that the first woman medical graduate in the Adelaide University has received the appointment of House Surgeon at the Children's Hospital. The position is one for which a qualified lady practitioner is admirably adapted, and the Committee of Management of the institution have shown excellent judgment in making the selection. We have no doubt that Miss Fowler will be the first of a long line of women graduates in the Medical School here, many of whom will make the practice of their profession their life work. Even if they should not continue to practice, the knowledge they will acquire in working for their degree will be an enormous gain to them, and will enable them to lead much more useful and happy lives than are led by women who have no noble purpose before them and pass their time in alternate fits of listless idleness and of eager pursuit of the fashionable frivolities of the hour.

There is very little doubt that the efforts to promote the higher education of women, and to introduce them into fresh fields of honourable activity have frequently been more bitterly opposed by women than by men. For ministering to their own sex and to children women are certainly better qualified than men; yet it has often happened that women have expressed the strongest aversion to being attended by a female medical practitioner. It is true that when it was first proposed to open the medical schools in Great Britain to females the movement was strenuously opposed by the older members of the profession, but thanks to the persistence and energy of a few earnest-minded women the prejudice was overcome. In England and in Scotland there are now several duly qualified women holding important positions in such institutions as the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women and in several of the hospitals for women and children. Straws show which way the wind blows, and some of the indications of the course of the current of thought about woman's proper work, though slight, are very suggestive. The young female doctor is not an uncommon figure in the modern novel. Few novel-writers are artists, and so they resort to the cheap and clumsy expedient of making their characters odd in order to attract attention to them. It is significant, however, that the young female doctor drawn by the novelist now is not a mere professional machine, but a reasonable human being with human passions and sympathies. In short, to the novelist who is, by a great stretch of imagination, supposed to depict human nature as it is, she has vindicated her right to exist and to follow the bent of her mind. A still smaller straw showing the current of modern feeling is the revision of the title of the well-known publication *Men of the Time*. In the last edition it is *Men and Women of the Time*. It is a cause for congratulation that every rational move-