

Register 6/14/90.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I fully agree with the letters signed "Pater" and "F. A. d'Arenberg" concerning our University exams. The former has justly pointed out that we are almost examination mad, and the latter the too-evident need for some change in the governing body of our University. Exams., though they are useful in many ways, should not be pushed to extremes. They promote an unhealthy desire to cram, and frequently to study the examiner as much as the textbook. If we must have exams. for advertising and testing the learning of the different schools of the colony let them be arranged on the system of the Oxford and Cambridge locals for schools; but I think the majority of University men will agree that the matric. ought to be a separate examination. Your correspondents have already mentioned the great difficulty of the mathematical papers, but I would mention one act of great unfairness to the medical student. The Adelaide University Calendar says that "the medical student is required to pass (in the Senior Public) those subjects specified by the G.M.C. of the United Kingdom." These in mathematics are—algebra to simple equations and the first book of Euclid. But the standard for a pass in the Senior Public is—algebra to surds and four books of Euclid. So that the medical student has three times as much work as he ought to do. Trusting that something will be done to stop this State-school system of University exams.,

I am, Sir, &c.,

ARTHUR SMITH.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Mr. D'Arenberg, in his letter in this morning's Register, says that the University Council has rejected the recommendations of the committee of the Senate on the LL.B. regulations. I wish to point out that Mr. D'Arenberg has unintentionally overstated the case. The Council has not rejected the scheme, but has made some amendments which I fully expect the Senate will consider improvements. As there is to be a special meeting of the Senate on Wednesday next to consider the matter, I trust that all the members of the Senate will carefully read over the proposals (they will ere this have received the papers containing them), and that as many as possible will attend the meeting.

I am, Sir, &c.,

F. W. PENNEFATHER.

December 5.

Register 22/12/90

THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES. — A very important subject bearing upon higher education in Australia was brought before the public by Professor Pennefather in his oration at the University Commemoration on Wednesday last. A report of the speech will be found in another column, and on the whole it will be found worthy of the high commendation bestowed upon it by Bishop Kennion at the speech-day celebration of St. Peter's College. Those who were present at the commemoration at the University will agree with the Bishop that it was disgraceful in the extreme for a section of the students to have so far forgotten themselves as to render the reading of the paper practically unintelligible owing to their indulgence in all sorts of foolish noises. On account of the interruptions even those who heard it will be glad to have an opportunity of seeing the oration in print. It is, as the Professor of Laws justly remarked, a most absurd anomaly that eminent lawyers going a few hours' journey in Australia to plead in the Courts of a neighbouring city should be obliged to pass some trumpery examination to show that they are acquainted with the merest rudiments of the law. Nothing could more forcibly illustrate the necessity for some sort of co-operation or federation in the matter of University and other examinations throughout the colonies. In writing on the same subject a few days ago we purposely refrained from giving much prominence to the word federation, because this term has come to acquire a signification which implies to some extent the merging of the individuality of the smaller into that of the larger unit. It is, as a matter of fact, not at all necessary to go so far as this in order to accomplish all that is required. The adoption of uniformity in regard to the various courses and the appointment of common Boards of Examiners would at once

enable every graduate of any of the Universities to subscribe himself a graduate of the Australian Universities; and it is needless to say that such a degree would be far preferable to one purporting to emanate merely from one or other of the local capital cities. A subordinate question raised by Professor Pennefather is that of the affiliation of Adelaide University to either Oxford or Cambridge. It is rather a humiliating condition for any University to be forced to accept to be virtually induced to admit that two years' study in its classes are only worth one year's at Oxford or Cambridge. This of course is implied in the arrangement that a colonial student who has done two years of his course may complete the term for his degree in two years, thus making four years in all instead of three as in ordinary cases. It is generally conceded that the actual examination requirements for a pass—leaving honours out of consideration—are if anything more rigorous and extensive at the Australian Universities than at those of Oxford or Cambridge. Nevertheless, for the sake of those students who may have to remove from South Australia to take up their abode in England, it is only wise for the University Council to take steps to secure as good terms as the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are willing to allow. It is to be regretted that Professor Pennefather should have gone out of his way to attack the aims of those who lay stress upon natural science, or, as he calls

it, the study of "mudpuddles." It is from this same science of "mudpuddles" that the great and beneficial discoveries of bacteriology have arisen, and modern medicine shows that the happiness of mankind depends more upon the study of these disagreeable environments than the framers of the fabric of our laws ever imagined. The Professor of Laws should remember that if it comes to a contest in caricaturing the studies of others it would be just as easy to ridicule legal lore as any other. In many respects the Professor's oration was characterized by good taste and excellent sense, and it is a pity that he allowed himself to mar the general effect by this blemish.

# The Advertiser

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1890.

WHEN Willam of Wykeham some five hundred years ago founded his famous college of "Selnte Marie of Wynchestre in Oxenford" he chose for the motto of that great nursery of learning "Manners makyth man." Winchester boys are hourly reminded of this, and, to do them justice, as a rule they carry the motto with them through life. Horace tells us that the effect of things brought before the eye is far greater than of words dropped into the ears. And we venture to suggest to the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide that they should take steps to have some such motto as that of Winchester posted up in the halls and lecture-rooms of their University. They might with advantage go even further and inscribe in conspicuous parts of the building "Tabulæ legum" such as face Winchester boys in the school. A certain amount of high spirits is to be expected and may well be tolerated at Commemoration. Something must be conceded to the close of term and the beginning of vacation. But there are bounds beyond which liberty passes into license, and scenes are enacted which may well be described as no better than rioting.