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cost £1 in South Australia would cost £6 in America. The high schools in America all had four-year courses, and in that respect carried the students further than those in South Australia. If the senior public examination were set up as a standard to be aimed at, it would be much better than a number of tests. It would be a fair standard for the ordinary boy going into life to have that certificate. He believed commercial men would accept that standard, but doubted whether the Federal and State Governments and the railways would require so high a standard. The high schools ought to be able to give a certificate to those who had passed the two-years' course. It was a mark of strong fibre that young men would put in their vacations in work. That was not done in Australia to any extent. If instead of 5 per cent. of the young people, 50 or 75 per cent. went through the University, it would raise the standard of the business and tradesmen of the future. Secondary education was of more importance than extending the functions or accommodation of the University; but the latter must follow the extension of the first. Without a great extension of secondary work, the University would be more of a cultural than a utilitarian institution. It would be a good thing in reference to bursaries and special prizes given to the State schools, to throw them open to all schools of the same standard. He did not think the extension of the high schools would compete against such schools as St. Peter's and Prince Alfred Colleges; the people who now sent their children there would continue to do so. It would be an advantage if the technical school system were controlled by the Education Department, if some man were put in the position of Director of Technical Education, but not otherwise. Where in Government departments advance was solely by seniority, young men who had taken the B.Sc. degree felt that the time spent in gaining that standard had been wasted, and if something were done to make the attainment of such a degree of greater value, effort would be stimulated.

At the conclusion of Mr. Jordan's evidence the commission adjourned. At its next meeting Mr. C. Bronner (President of the Teachers' Union) will be examined.

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UNIVERSITY BUILDING EXTENSIONS.

Mr. W. B. Bland, whose tender was accepted for the construction of additions to the main University building, began operations yesterday, and made satisfactory progress with the erection of the scaffolding. The projected additions include an extension of the library, and increased library accommodation. To provide this another story will be added to the northern portion of the block. The new floor will be constructed with reinforced concrete, and will be fireproof. Other innovations will include an electric lift, and an iron escape staircase at the rear. It is intended to complete the new floor at the earliest possible moment (it will act as a ceiling to the rooms beneath), and it is expected that this will be towards the end of March, when lectures will begin. Sydney freestone will be used for the outer walls of the additions, to be in conformity with the rest of the building. The whole of the contract is to be completed within nine months. Messrs. Woods and Bagot are the architects.

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THE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM.

In his examination before the Education Commission on Monday morning, Mr. E. Jordan, M.A., B.Sc., who was appointed an inspector of schools some months ago, with the idea that he should devote most of his time to the high schools, mentioned that there were now 18 district high schools in the State, and one superior high school in Adelaide. In the order of importance, so far at least as the rolls were concerned, he said the institutions ranked this way:—Adelaide, 511; Norwood, 200; Unley, 161; LeFevre's Peninsula, 152; Hindmarsh, 120; Mount Gambier, 73; Moonta, 63; Gawler, 60; Mount Barker, 58; Narracoorte, 57; Wallaroo Mines, 53; Port Pirie, 52; Victor Harbor, 43; Petersburg, 42; Kapunda, 42; Jamestown, 32; Gladstone, 31; Blumberg, 25; and Quorn, 23. The average was about 80, and compared with the system in America the South Australian figures were exceedingly small, as the average number of names on the roll here was 500.

STUDENTS AND VACATION WORK.

It has of late become the practice of some University students to spend the long vacation at work in the country as fruit-pickers or as assistants on the farms of friends and relations. In the majority of instances the work is undertaken as a form of recreation, though the few pounds earned come in useful as pocket money. It is not so in America, according to Mr. E. Jordan, the newly-appointed Inspector of Schools, who is an M.A. of Leland Stanford University, in the United States. The students there, except those in the higher class institutions, which are patronised by the wealthy undergraduates only, regard vacations as opportunities for earning money to spend on their education. When under examination before the Higher Education Commission on Monday Mr. Jordan, quoting from a paper written by him about a year ago on the subject, "Some ideas from Stanford University," said—"While lectures are free, there are books to buy and certain laboratory fees to pay for those requiring them, and living is dearer than it is with us—ordinary board, lodging, and washing amounting to from five to eight guineas per month, without extras. And here it is that the average American University men and women show their grit, taking all kinds of employment in between times that they may work their passage through college to the greater possibilities that lie beyond. Library attendants, stenographers, typists, and clerks in the business and other offices are for the most part students giving some of their time to these occupa-

tions. At Palo Alto one often meets across the counters of various bookstores, drapers, and restaurants of an afternoon, the men one sees at lectures in the morning. The men who undertake work of the different kinds suggested are men of the best stuff, who thus show their grit and independence—and as such they are the more respected by their fellows. This is the true spirit of American democracy, the right of brain-workers to be manual laborers, too, without fear of class prejudice. The men who wait on the girls at their meals in halls or elsewhere at dinner are, may be, their best partners for the ball that night. The man holding the presidency of the student body, the highest undergraduate honor a man can gain, worked his way through as a waiter. The three months summer vacation affords opportunity for outside work, often paying enough to provide for the necessities of the next nine months at college. Men and girls 'go out and get a job,' as they put it, and are proud to get the chance. The many summer hotels and other holiday resorts employ both the men and women as clerks, waiters, assistant managers, and guides." Mr. Jordan added that very little of that sort of thing was done in Australia, one of the causes being the lack of opportunity, but there was no reason why it should not be done to a greater extent during the long vacations particularly.

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The calendar of the University of Adelaide for the year 1911, which has just been published, contains full information concerning the work of the institution for last year, together with the work to be done in the various courses during the coming twelve months. There are also lists of graduates, diploma students, and undergraduates. The statistics show that the undergraduates studying the various courses are:—Medicine, 73; arts, 202; science, 68; and music, 10. There are 280 students at the Elder Conservatorium. In the senior public examinations last March 55 candidates presented themselves and 26 passed. Later in the year there were other examinations, in respect to which the figures were:—Primary, 1,160 candidates, of whom 650 received

certificates; junior, 760, of whom 334 passed; senior, 360 candidates, of whom 161 passed; and higher public, 153 candidates, of whom 101 passed. In the theory of music, grade V., 60 entered and 59 passed; grade IV., 60 entered and 49 passed; grade III., 22 entered and 10 passed; grade II., 10 entered and 6 passed; grade I., 7 entered and 1 passed. In practice of music grade V., 79 entered and 66 passed; grade IV., 60 entered and 49 passed; grade III., 22 entered and 10 passed; grade II., 10 entered and 6 passed. There were also a large number of students in commercial subjects. There are 23,000 volumes in the University library.

Professor Ennis, of the Conservatorium, will leave for Mount Gambier this morning to attend a meeting, convened by the Mount Gambier centre of the University of Adelaide, in connection with public examinations in music.

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LECTURES ON BACH'S WORKS.

Admirers of high-class music will be pleased to hear that Professor Ennis has arranged to deliver a special course of lectures on "The Analysis and Interpretation of Bach's 'Das Wohltemperirte Klavier' (48 preludes and fugues)" at the Conservatorium during the present academic year. The series will consist of 24 lectures, which will be distributed equally over the three terms and be delivered on Wednesday afternoons. During the progress of the lectures Dr. Ennis will play the entire collection of the preludes and fugues which will comprise the subject of his addresses.

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UNIVERSITY EXTENSIONS.

The necessity for additional accommodation at the Adelaide University has long been felt, and this week a start has been made on some improvements to the existing premises which should in some measure relieve the congested condition of the institution. From the exterior view facing North terrace it would appear that the University buildings extend throughout to two floors, but such is not the case, as the northern portion is limited to one story. A contract has been secured by Mr. W. B. Bland to erect a second story to correspond with the front of the edifice, and when completed the building will present the same ornate appearance from front to rear. When the original building was erected Sydney freestone was used in its construction, and the present contract provides for similar stone, so that the whole premises will present a uniform exterior. As all the available space is required for lectures and other work, efforts will be made to allow the existing accommodation to remain undisturbed so long as possible, and with this object in view a reinforced concrete floor will be erected over the single-story structure first, in the hope that it will not be found necessary to throw the lower lecture rooms out of use during the first term. The concrete floor will ultimately act as a roof and ceiling to the existing rooms, and it is hoped that the whole of this work will be completed by the third week in March, when the rooms will be required for lecture purposes. The upper floor to be constructed will contain the library, and additional space will be devoted to lecture rooms.