ADVERTISER. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1881.

[Article text with paragraphs on educational topics, including statements about the "agenda" of the University Senate and regulations for examinations. The text discusses the maximum age for primary examinations and mentions institutions like Cambridge, recalling Thomas Aquinas.]

Adelaide, November 21, 1881.

VER. SAT.
THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I think it is universally admitted that the administrative faculty is not always faultlessly possessed by those in power, and that every subject that is submitted for public criticism generally assumes some new aspect, and presents itself in different phases. I regret exceedingly that more criticism has not been publicly expended on the proposed changes in our University. That our University has not been an unqualified success none will deny, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the old motto *experientia docet* will be fully vindicated. About the appointment of Mr. Fletcher as lecturer in English literature, I have nothing to say further than I think the council have shown a wise discretion in reducing the salary to £500 per annum. If I remember rightly £200 per annum was first paid and no difficulty was experienced in securing competent men to fill the chairs, and I fail to see that any tangible reason was advanced to justify the exorbitant increase to £1,600. I think it is better to err on the side of economy than the other extreme, prodigality, and when it is proved that competent men cannot be obtained to fulfil the duties required at £500, then by all means increase it. A "new departure" I also object to—that is the abolition of chemistry as one of the subjects for the B.A. course, and the substitution of physiology as an optional subject only. This I consider a retrograde step, and one that is not likely to secure (quoting Dr. Stirling) "enthusiastic encouragement from those it was hoped would be its ardent supporters." Admitting that there are difficulties in the way, I think in this scientific age every student should have a knowledge of chemistry. With regard to the appointment of Dr. Stirling as lecturer in physiology, is it a step in the right direction? Dr. Stirling seems to depreciate the idea of a medical student gaining a sufficiently comprehensive knowledge of medicine and surgery here, even if a faculty of medicine were fully established; but it has been found possible to equip a medical faculty in other colonial universities, and many of their graduates are at the present time most successful practitioners, so why is the same thing not possible here? I think by far the greater part of the "machinery" necessary is at hand and only needs to be utilised. Assuming that the proposed changes may lessen the period of exile for students, is it possible to "oram" students satisfactorily in medicine, surgery, and clinical practice in the short space of two years? In British universities medical students' hospital studies commence during the first year, and continue until they graduate, consequently if they have to leave home at all an additional year or two of exile does not matter much, particularly if special facilities are within reach to gain the comprehensive knowledge desired. I think our university authorities have not yet rightly interpreted the spirit of the times.

Yours, &c,

Non Sibil Sed Patrel.

Norwood, November 28, 1881.