THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—If we may form an opinion from the momentary limitation of the work transacted by the Council of the above, we can only arrive at the conclusion that during the year 1881 little progress will be shown, and you will find that the University is disorganised.

With the appointment of the Rev. W. R. Fletcher, M.A., as temporary Professor for 1883, in succession to Professor Proctor, we cannot forget the late Professor’s salary was raised to £1,000 per annum. In order that he might resign his clerical duties and devote his thoughts to University work, it is to the regret of many that we learn that Mr. Fletcher’s clerical duties lighter. We should say not. As to the other appointments, we have been still more correct if it had inserted “very” before “few,” in the sentence “It is to be feared that for several years to come Dr. Sills will have but few pupils.” That has lately appeared in the Register advertisements calling for lecturers in the Melbourne University. Perhaps the Council approve of the good old Whig principle of keeping them in the family,—very pleasant, but not likely to be very profitable or popular at the present day.

Your obliged,

Nundeed, November 2.

PROGRESS.

MEDICAL INSTRUCTION AT THE UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—I think that a great deal of the misapprehension which exists in the minds of many in the University is due to the fact that the University authorities might be removed by a few candid explanations from their side. With this view, I venture to supplement the observations in your sub-leader of to-day by a few remarks on some proposed changes in the University curriculum, and the spirit in which they are to be made. I am sure that all will agree with me that the University is a purely private capacity, and that I alone am responsible for the views advanced, which, I trust, do not conflict in any way with the sentiments of my colleagues on the Council.

In a young and essentially practical community, I am sorry to say that the chief educational body should make provision for general culture only, as is mainly admitted. I trust, however, that there will be apprehension that the function of a colonial University should be in a large measure to supply a high-class technical training in those professions in which the State may be sure of future demand. I write it to them as a purely private capacity, and that I alone am responsible for the views advanced, which, I trust, do not conflict in any way with the sentiments of my colleagues on the Council.

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extended. In fact there is no use denying that the growth of the University has been less rapid than might have been wished, partly no doubt from want of enthusiasm, encouragement from those it was hoped would be its ardent supporters, partly also no doubt from its own inherent shortcomings.

I think that the Council have fully recognised this fact, though I repeat again that it has mainly been due to causes entirely beyond its control. It now only remains to express to the authorities of the University by providing a curriculum which shall include teaching in two of the professions practised here, viz., in law and medicine.

It is not competent for me to enter into the details of the scheme for law instruction, as the measure is still under discussion. I may, however, say that if the scheme as proposed by the Council be sanctioned in the proper quarters, and be fully carried out, a very complete faculty of laws will be established, which shall include teaching in all branches, required by the legal practitioner, and of course the granting of law degrees. I leave this part of the subject to the legal profession and the Press to suspend their judgment on a scheme of which they can only have imperfect and insubstantial particulars. As regards a faculty of medicine I observe that there are some who would wish to see a complete School of Medicine established here at once in preference to a school of laws. I wish I knew the numbers of students at the University would justify the step. It is only those who are associated with the elaborate educational machinery of a completed medical school who can properly appreciate the difficulties in the way, and the impossibility of founding such an institution here under present circumstances. The Council, however, hope that as "Mighty things from small beginnings grow," it will be rightly interpreting the spirit of the times to make a cautious movement in this direction; and with this view, as you have expressed in your issue of to-day, it has appointed a lecturer on physiology. Though logically perhaps anatomy (or the knowledge of structure) should precede physiology (or the knowledge of function), it was thought that the latter subject from its much greater general interest should have the preference. In the interests of the University the Council got this course recognised by the chief medical examining bodies of Great Britain, so that the knowledge of physiology and functions of their own bodies may be diffused amongst students generally, intending students of medicine may gain credit for attendance on this course at the University. I, for one, should be very sorry indeed to see students of medicine pass through the whole of their curriculum without it. We cannot yet suppose that the opportunities for clinical study and for hospital practice afforded by the great metropolitan and provincial hospitals of Europe. But what I think we can do, and should do, is to include the preliminary and non-professional parts of a medical student's education. Botany, chemistry, and physiology, in the two ancient arts we study, and taught well so far as such encyclopedic knowledge lies within one man's ambit, physiology now finds a place. With the addition of this, and the proper development and recognition of the above subjects the University might, and I hope will, be a proper substitute for the examinations of the members of the Council; at any rate, I know them to be actuated by a sincere desire, not only to enlarge the sphere of University objects, but to enlarge it in directions that shall be most advantageous to the public and useful to the cause of education.

I am, Sir, your

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George's Hospital, London.

Adelaide, November 2.