

TER, THURSDAY, MAY

However, a different plan has been adopted. Certain blocks of land have been handed over to the Council as an endowment, and the Council must exercise its wisdom and its financial skill in managing its landed estate so as to obtain therefrom the largest revenue. In addition to this the Government are bound by the University Act to pay 5 per cent. per annum on all money contributed by private individuals as an endowment. This 5 per cent. will be paid until the total annual allowance reaches the sum of £10,000. This method is a direct encouragement to private munificence, for every donor knows that his gift will produce not only the 6 per cent. or 7 per cent. which may accrue from its investment, but 5 per cent. additional. But it makes it difficult for the Council to do all that may be desired by them or by the public.

The Vice-Chancellor has frequently called the attention of the public to the desirableness of establishing evening lectures so as to extend the benefits of high-class instruction to those who cannot attend lectures in the day time, and the question was urged upon the Council by several school teachers and others. We have more than once expressed the opinion that nothing would do more to popularize the University and to make its influence more widely felt than the establishment of evening classes. In this direction Sydney and Melbourne have set good examples, and in the former case the Government has wisely given its practical endorsement of the scheme by adding £1,000 to the annual endowment. We hope that before this year draws to an end something practical in this direction will be done here. We do not see why a beginning should not be made, if only one or two classes could be arranged for, leaving all the rest to the chances of the future. Indeed, we understand that Professor Tate has agreed to give a course of evening lectures which might serve as a beginning of the scheme. We are not quite clear what kind of classes are contemplated. Those who presented a memorial to the Council on the subject of course wished to have classes for the degree subjects. If such classes were started we imagine that some, at least, of the Professors, who are not overworked, could find time for evening classes, or possibly the hours of some of the ordinary lectures could be altered to the evening.

If the intention is also to start classes for the matriculation subjects, it would hardly do, for obvious reasons, for the Professor to conduct them, and to establish them will involve additional expense, though we believe half of what is devoted to the object in Sydney should be found sufficient here. If the University Council will boldly and clearly say what they wish to accomplish, and what is needed for its accomplishment, we have no doubt the necessary help will be forthcoming. But the matter should be placed before the public by the Council in the clearest and most unmistakeable manner.
