

other. Incidental allusion has already been made to the close relations that subsisted between the Town Council and the University, and to the authority of the former over the latter. Of course it would be too much to expect that during a connection of three centuries there should never have been any hitch or friction between the two bodies; but it is remarkable that though the executive of the corporation has long had and still retains the right of electing professors, the interests of the university have not thereby suffered, as a rule, but have on the contrary been again and again advanced.

It will readily be understood that the forty chairs now established were not the work of a single year or even a single century. The first chair in the Faculty of Arts was established in 1597, that in theology followed in 1620, and that of botany (as representing the medical faculty) in 1676, and of public law in 1707. One hundred and fifty years after its foundation there were eighteen professorships in existence, comprising most of the principal subjects in the several departments of learning, so that the twenty-two chairs which have been added since 1732 have been partly necessitated by the greater minuteness and consequent subdivisions of knowledge in these later days. Our readers may remember the order of events in the Adelaide University, and be interested in the comparison between them and those of the more venerable sister. First came the chairs of English language and literature, and mental and moral philosophy, and of classics and comparative philology and literature. Then the chairs of mathematics and natural science, and afterwards the lectureships in human physiology and civil law. It is hoped that a formal beginning in the establishment of chairs in the faculty of medicine will be made very soon through the money provided by the generous liberality of Sir Thomas Elder. In Edinburgh, Greek as a subject by itself was 121 years later of being taught than Latin; mathematics only 77 years later; mental, moral, and natural philosophy were contemporaneous with Greek. The University was nearly 200 years old ere any attempt was made to introduce the subject of English literature or physiology as separate departments of study. What strikes one, however, perhaps more than anything else, in reading the account of its history is the very gradual way in which it has come to take the position it now holds among the educational institutions of the world.

And though it is utterly impossible that the Adelaide University should be able for many a long day to boast of such a numerous staff of teachers — forty professors, besides lecturers and assistants—such a wide range of subjects, down to geology and the fine arts, music not excepted ; such a splendid suite of buildings, erected at the end of last century, but having just received most substantial additions ; such a large average attendance of students, amounting to more than 3,000 from all parts of the British Empire and even from other nationalities as well, yet the higher educationalists among us ought to be encouraged. For Edinburgh University, too, was once in its infancy. It took birth in more troublous times and commenced under less auspicious circumstances than ours, and it ought to be the proud ambition of every South Australian to emulate the devotees of scholarship in the old world, and to make our young and rising University do for this colony what these ancient seats of learning have done and are still doing for the populations at home.