

all the Australasian Universities, that is for Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and the New Zealand Universities. The examining body in each case might consist of a committee chosen indiscriminately from the colonies. In such an arrangement South Australia would gain great advantages. But she would also confer some benefits on her neighbours. Victoria possesses no mathematician who might be called in to assist in the examinations of such high distinction as Professor Lamb. Certainly, if we except Sir Ferdinand von Mueller, she has no botanist superior to Professor Tate. Not merely would an amalgamation bring about the best utilization of professorial talent, but its greatest advantage would be that of rendering the value of Australian degrees equivalent for all parts of the colonies. It is asserted that colonists when travelling in England and on the Continent have given up calling themselves Victorians or South Australians, or by any other name borrowed from an individual colony. They call themselves "Australians." Something analogous should be sanctioned in the case of the Universities. A successful student should be not simply a graduate of Melbourne, Sydney, or Adelaide, but also of the incorporated Universities of Australia. It is gratifying that the Council of the University have taken this matter up. They should not be daunted by the apparent difficulties that lie in the way of amalgamation. These ideas are reciprocated in the other colonies. Some four or five years ago Professor E. E. Morris wrote an article published in the *Melbourne Review*, in which he very ably urged the amalgamation of the Australian Universities.

For want of funds the Council of the University have been forced to abandon indefinitely the project of establishing a School of Medicine. The colony must then go on importing all its medical men, and the medical profession must remain barred to all South Australian young men excepting those having command of very ample means. This is greatly to be regretted. The poverty of the University arises solely from the extravagance with which expense was lavished on the building which, small as it is, has cost more than £30,000. There is actually about £8,800 of the endowment for the maintenance of a teaching staff that has been absorbed in the building. About the same amount of Government subsidy for maintenance has been, in direct violation of the Act of Incorporation, squandered in the same way.

The consequence is that the University—that is, the staff of professors and the actual teaching arrangements of the institution—are only about half what they ought to be. It is not to be wondered at that the University cannot have a Medical School so long as it is conducted on financial principles so utterly contrary to law and common sense. But let the misappropriated income be called back and there will be ample funds for the establishment of a School of Medicine. The success of the Law School is encouraging. But many people who are unable to send their sons away from the colony would far rather see them going in for the medical than for the legal profession. It is only right, therefore, that the University should endeavour to provide academical instruction in each of the learned professions.

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THE ceremony of conferring degrees at the University, of which a full report appears elsewhere, was of an unusually interesting character. The council very wisely departed from the dry and formal type on which the programme has hitherto been arranged and introduced some novel features. The delivery of an "oration" or whatever else it may be called by one of the officials of the University is an excellent innovation. We have, as was remarked by the Vice-Chancellor, no "public orator" whose set duty it is to deliver "appropriate speeches," but that is no reason why the commemoration should not be made an occasion for one of the professors to let the public know of what sort of metal he is made and what is being done in that department of learning in which he is supposed to be especially at home. An address from Professor Tate, who seems to have acquired and systematised vast and comprehensive information about the geology of South Australia, or from Professor Lamb, whose acquaintance with the latest results of physical research is so practical and so extensive, would always add interest to a university commemoration. The departments of study presided over by the other professors may not be so popular, but as their influence on the general culture of the people is even greater, the effects of an address by the professors of ancient or modern literature would be both permanent and far-reaching. There is always a danger lest a