

lower the standard of examination as regards the compulsory subjects after it has once been fixed it will be quite possible to raise it at some future day if it should be found expedient to do so.

There remain two questions to be considered. The one is, whether it is wise for the University at this stage of its career to burden itself with a law school. The number of students in this department will for some time, no doubt, be limited; but it is quite within the proper objects of the University for the Council to endeavour to raise the educational status of the legal profession in the colony. Moreover, as we have pointed out, the studies for the degree may be, and we hope will be, taken up by others besides those who desire to qualify for the Bar. Sooner or later the University tests should unquestionably be accepted as the evidence of special as well as general scholarship, and if the law school can be established now, as we believe it can, without crippling the usefulness of the University in other directions, there is no reason why the step should not be taken at once. The next question is the provision to be made for lecturers and examiners. If care is taken in the selection of examiners—and the choice need not be confined to South Australia—we believe the teaching staff might consist chiefly, if not entirely, of lecturers some of whom might be found in the colony. The lecturers would be less costly than a Professor, and could be removed more readily if it were found that they were not equal to the work. This is a matter which must be left to the University authorities; but we trust that efficiency, rather than the possession of a costly and ornamental staff, will be aimed at. If the examinations are conducted by men whose names will be a guarantee that the test is a trustworthy one, the work of teaching may safely be entrusted to men who, though they may not have a world-wide reputation, are nevertheless thoroughly competent to give instruction in one or more of the subjects in which candidates for the LL.B. degree will have to pass. It is satisfactory to find that the prolonged deliberations of the Council of the University have resulted in a scheme which appears to be practicable, and which will, we believe, be a valuable aid in raising the status of the legal profession in the colony.

The Advertiser

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1882.

It has been frequently rumored during the past few months that the council of the University was at work in making arrangements for the establishment of a school of law. The matter was laid before the leading members of the legal profession, and from them came forth a cordial wish that the educational endowments of the University should be made available for those who were candidates for the honors and responsibilities which attach to the practice of law. In our own columns we have advocated such an extension of the operations of the University as would foster and encourage the liberal education of others than students in arts and science. It is to be hoped that in time a school of medicine, lectureships on engineering, and even arrangements for the study of music, as well as a faculty of law, may enter into the educational scheme of the national University. It is not, however, to be expected that a University can become matured in its efficiency in a few years. In a small community like that of South Australia its growth must necessarily be slow. The demand for the higher education will not precede the supply in a young colony like this. They must both grow together, and if there be any order of priority the great law of political philosophy that the demand awakens the supply must be reversed. It is the duty of those who have already learned to appreciate the benefits of scholastic training to foster in others the desire to attain them, and the best way to do this is by making the University as far-reaching and inclusive in its operations as possible. The statutes and regulations for the establishment of a faculty of law have been wrought out by the council of the University, but they cannot become effective until they have been adopted by the senate and have received the sanction of the Governor. In order to enable these statutes to be of much practical service in the training of future lawyers it will be necessary that they should be adopted and made use of by the Supreme Court instead of the present system of examinations which must be passed by all candidates for the legal profession. Unless their honors the judges see fit in their wisdom to recognise the utility of the University scheme, the new faculty of law will have but few students, and will serve no visible purpose except to decorate with a degree those few aspirants who have leisure and inclination to pursue their education into the higher and more ornate branches of study.