With regard to the Hospital it must be admitted on all sides that there is room for improvement, whether in respect of the existing buildings or of the internal arrangements. But praiseworthy efforts are now being made to place the management under the control of a body of practitioners and the question of erecting a new building is receiving attention. The one thing for which the Hospital is especially to be commended has been passed over by Dr. Stirling—namely, possibilities of feeling of model in and of the admirable care and the personal skill brought to bear upon cases by the medical and surgical staff. The honorary physicians and surgeons, assisted by the house surgeons, devote as much time and attention to the patients in the Hospital as they would if they were private patients, and for this they deserve the thanks of the community.

It is in Dr. Stirling's third point that we feel the most interest. What is to be done about quacks? We referred to the question at some length three or four weeks ago from a deep sense of its importance to the public. For, it should be remembered, it is not so much the qualified medical men who suffer from the existence of quacks as the public—the unfortunate persons whose lives are risked by the mediæval nostrums of quackery. The physician or surgeon has to restore constitutions which have been weakened by the practice of pretentious impostors or to save limbs which have been put at risk by charlatans. The matter of unlicensed practitioners lawfully for the public to consider, but as the public is notoriously a bad judge in its own case the State has appointed a Board of medical men to decide whether or not an unlicensed practitioner has given to any recognised School of Medicine a proof of his ability. Unfortunately the State has not in South Australia gone far enough. Dr. Stirling points out—"we have ourselves partially remedied the absolute insufficiency in the Medical Act of this colony. "There is nothing now," he says, "to prevent the holders of certain degrees issued after a manifestly insufficient course of study from being admitted to the roll of licensed practitioners who would not be admitted in any of the other colonies."

A case in point is supplied by a recent proceeding before the Supreme Court in Queensland. There an order nisi was moved for a renewal of the medical board to show cause why a woman of mandarins should not be issued ordering the Board to register a certain gentleman who is a medical graduate of an American University. The Chief Justice said he considered he had missed the motion. The news, the Queensland Medical Board since 1884 have declined to register any American diploma whatsoever unless certified to by an examination either at the Sydney or Melbourne University, and doubtless the Act which has been deliberately broken was sufficient to make the motion mentioned above ineffectual. Why should not the South Australian Board have similar powers? If it had we should now have so many more quacks than Queensland has. Until the public take their own affairs upon themselves, it is of small moment that death certificates must be signed only by qualified practitioners where such are accessible, and that the
post of public vaccinator, except under very special circumstances, is taken from unqualified men — the present unsatisfactory state of things will continue. If vaccination is an important operation it should be performed by properly trained persons; and though it may seem undignified to take from unqualified persons the work which they are best fitted to do — the signing of death certificates — we are bound to sink our regard for the individual in our zeal for the maintenance of public health. In their own interests the public should support the endeavours of the Medical Board to secure the registration of qualified men only. The endeavours of the Boards are founded, as Dr. Stirling says, "on the admittedly fair and reasonable grounds that while we do not deny respect to people in their free choice of an attendant, we desire and claim that the law should at least make it possible for ignorant and thoughtless people to distinguish between the qualified and unqualified practitioner if they desire to do so."

THE TRADES HALL.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir — Sympathising with the movement for a grant of land for the erection of a Trades Hall, I wish to point out that two sites are now available and, I think, would be the best. One is on North Terrace, between the gaol and the gaol garden, and the other is a piece of land here having fully half an acre frontage, by a depth of say a couple of acres, which, though not in the immediate vicinity, is not their property. They make no claim to it, and I think, if one of these two or some more central site could be obtained on the Local Court lease, the money would be well spent. The Victoria-square or King William-street, the Local Court itself occupies only a small portion of the site, and the rest of the street is reserved in front and on the western side for any future necessary enlargement. The rest of the site is utilized for police stables and coppersmith's quarters, and portion lat temporarly to a private individual for lawn tennis. The Civil Service Commission state that the stables should be removed, and there is no necessity for the coppersmith's quarters, which have been condemned by the municipal authorities. If I am allowed to say, the Local Court site might be more profitably and fully utilized than at present. If a Trades Hall is ever to be erected there it would be a great improvement.

J. C. KINGSTON.

JAN. 8th.

M. J. DANE AT THE UNIVERSITY.

Thursday evening Major Dane delivered a lecture in the library at the University on "The History of the Holy Grail and Martyred Presidents of the United States," before a large number of students.

Major Dane delivered a lecture on "James A. Garfield, Martyred President of the United States," at the Adelaide University on Thursday evening. Invitations to the lecture were issued by the Chancellor (his Hon. Chief Justice Way), and between 150 and 200 persons were present. Major Dane's discourse on the hero of that interesting period "Cabinet to White House," is well known, and he was listened to with close attention from start to finish. The major will give three lectures in Mount Gambier, commencing on Saturday next, and from thence he will go to Victoria. He has collected a mass of material for his work, and it is expected that he will deliver in the old country, and doubtless he will do much to turn the attention of those who would make desirable colonists to Australia.