THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

The Senate of the University, which is to meet on the 25th of this month, will have work of the most important kind to do. Seven gentlemen will have to be appointed members of the Council; five in place of those who retired in forms of the provisions of the University Act, and two in place of the gentlemen who, for reasons not made public, have voluntarily resigned the positions they held. But, besides this, the Senate will doubtless have a word to say as to the two last acts of the Senate of the University. Members will certainly express an opinion as to the advisability of holding round Chairs with the limitations which the Senate proposes. It will be inclined to ask how it is that our young University should continue to disregard the method and practice which are still observed by institutions of great fame and abiding influence. It may point out that tenure of an office under a possible notice to quit in three months is not an attractive ingredient in an advertisement asking good men to direct our schools, any more than it is an inducement to good men to take up their permanent residence amongst us in connection with the University. It may perhaps remind the Chancellor—who has had experience of both political and judicial office—that the better work was not done by the holder of a position of which he might be deprived by an adverse motion at any moment, but by the holder of an office which was accepted on the condition that it should be held against the general opinion. We should, however, be sorry to see the importation of any strong feeling into the discussion of this question. Personal considerations will doubtless have to be introduced, but only, we hope, to point a general principle of perpetual moral. Another question which the Senate is in duty bound to consider in some shape or form—if only for the purpose of securing the position of the University— concerns the appointment of the Lecturership in Law. The school over which the gentleman who now holds Mr. Phillipa's place presides is the most important, and, as it is generally speaking, of all in the University. A majority in the Council has appointed a gentleman whose qualifications are no too high, scholasically speaking, as those of at least one other candidate, and it behoves the Senate, considered as if it was Universitymen, to express its opinion on this appointment. Perhaps, as a third question, some inquiring member of the Senate will be glad to know how it came about that there was a Chief Justice of this University up to November 2. He was not then re-elected, and yet he admitted to degrees, by virtue of an authority which he did not possess. It is pleasant to turn from this record of the Council's errors of omission and commission to the history of the academic year as furnished by the Calendar just issued. This volume is growing in bulk and importance. It contains much useful and concise information as to the nature of the work required from students, giving, as it still does within the compass of one volume, both the subjects for study for the current year and a key to that study in the shape of the examination papers for the past year. Those interested in the progress of higher education will be
incline to learn at once from an official source how far the new regulations have been carried out successfully. First of all, there is the preliminary examination, which was instituted for the purpose of separating the compulsory from the optional subjects in the junior and senior classes. This is a practical test of the knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic, with analysis of sentences—shall we say, somewhat injudiciously—thrown in. For this examination 201 candidates presented themselves, of whom 198 passed. Of the unsuccessul third we venture to prophesy that it was not analysis which "ploughed" them. The boys and girls were probably well up in their predicates and co-ordinate sentences and objects, but unfortunately did not know how to spell the words in which they were set out.

Next to the preliminary is the Junior Public Examination, which is meant for more advanced students, and requires precise knowledge of certain branches of not less than three or more than five of the following subjects:—English, Latin, Greek, French, German, mathematics, physical and natural science. The limitation to five is a wise provision, and one which last year we should have inundated with Admissible Crichtons in kickbockers and blue stockings in short petticoats. There were 89 candidates for this examination, of whom 47 passed in class, 11 in class, and 31 in class. The last received their secured certificates. The Senior Public Examination, which is likewise dependent on the preliminary, attracted 75 candidates, of whom 43 passed. Two things are on the surface noticeable:—one, that for each two candidates were examined in Mount Gambier, and the other, that the girls beat the boys badly. With regard to the first point, we must be prepared to make full arraignments for the proper attendance of University examinations. It is too much to expect that parents in the country can or will always submit to the expense which is incidental to the presence of their children in Adelaide for the purpose of the public examination. As well as being a heavy drain on the pocket, it is easily to be understood how a journey to the University, the new surroundings and the untutored character which both circumstances give to a time for the young encourage a truant to the detriment of their appearance before the examiner. It will not be found difficult to select a capable overseer, whose business it will be to prevent unfair access and to give such help as is lawful. In examination time especially the principle has been more fully adopted, where the examination in the theory having been held last year in three places in the colony besides Adelaide. Touching the second point, the return which we have compiled from the certificates given in the calendar speak volumes against the boys, and, granted that the examination of boys and girls is conducted in exactly the same way and with no favour, should help to support the present theory that girls are bred as a boy—if not better—in the matter of native knowledge.

For the junior public examination 241 boys and 111 girls entered for various subjects; of these 104 boys and 74 girls passed. In the Senior Public Examination 242 boys and 83 girls entered for various subjects of those 161 boys and 71 girls.