THE LAW LECTURESHIP.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Having read your very just remarks on this subject in your article of December 29, I may be allowed to add a few further considerations, which may contribute to the public appreciation of the question. The law faculty, like all other faculties, has not been.Model for overcrowded applications, which have been clapped for sending in applications I was cautioned against by Mr. Pennefather; and, would be given to understand that the situation, even at the University, not only, to apply for the place, I will say nothing as to my qualifications except that they were such as were necessary for the performance of the work. As to the advice was given me in my own interest and was at the instance of my friend, and moreover, the appointment my friend opposed. I may mention the fact which has a tendency to decorum and etiquette, that the opinion of the University, and by the University, I mean the Law Faculty, has held that Mr. Phillips has never been a member of the University since he took his law degree by examination, and one of the members of the University, at any rate, the Chancellor, is not a member of it who has had any experience in the common school or undergraduate institution than that of Adelaide,—I am, &c.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Your valuable and just address "Andalusia" have done good service in directing public attention to this subject, which appears to be a very improper action on the part of the late University Council. The statement of the facts as given by the late master of the University was correct; and, as the matter is one of vital importance, I think the University has a right to have its position known. Neither the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, nor the Law Faculty, can afford to ignore the matter. I have been a member of the University for three years, and believe the University will be in a position of superintending a government's dispenser, Mr. Pennefather, in his address to the alumni on the law degrees in theology. This embraces a very admirable list of subjects, and it would be an excellent qualification for our lawyers, practised under the Missal code, but not otherwise. The one exception that I should make is in his degree of master of laws. To a layman this would appear to be a very substantial qualification, but it is true that legal knowledge it entirely loses its imposing aspect. I am in full agreement with your remarks as to the University's having appointed Mr. Pennefather, after his theological course, to undertake the examination of law subjects.—Roman law and English criminal law. I have mentioned these facts in order to show that the University has a right to have its position known, and if the University, as a new law lecturer, has been elected upon this one qualification that they do not explain parts of two law subjects. Upon this performance (rather less than one year's work of an ordinary law student) he has impressed the Council with such confidence in his powers that they have appointed him to examine the whole range of subjects with which the law deals, including that in which he has not shown himself as a law qualification. His degree is inferior to the L.L.B. of the Adelaide University, where he is a student of law degree, and yet he is to teach subjects which are not included in the degree of law of the University. Your correspondent has received the credentials of some other candidates, but it seems to me that the law, as a subject, is more necessary to the student's understanding of the matter. If there had been no other candidate, I should have supported, as a man of legal knowledge or literary attainment, sufficient for the post. Mr. Chittick's credentials seem to me to be the best, and to be those of a man who has gone beyond those of his successful rival, and it is surprising that he, with the aid of his\footnote{At this point, the text is cut off and the rest is not visible.} the youngest L.L.B. in the colony would be entitled to take precedence of Mr. Pennefather in his examination. I am, &c.
THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SCANDAL

—It is bad enough to have passed a candidate with honours in a subject which he did not take up, but it is still worse to plough a man when he should have passed. The University examinations in Melbourne have been unsatisfactory in the highest degree. Some few days ago we referred to the extraordinary measures adopted by one of the authorities in the Victorian University to test the knowledge of candidates for academic honours. One gentleman was refused his pass because of the “impression of ignorance” which his papers conveyed. This impression vanished when the head of the unfortunate student’s College interviewed the examiner, but meanwhile the student was compelled to lose his chance of competing for honours. The matter was brought to the knowledge of the Council of the University by one of its members, who happens also to be the Principal of the rival College in the University. With the proceedings of the Council readers are familiar. They know that it took the extraordinary course of solemnly ratifying the action which had inflicted an injustice upon students, and as an afterthought passed censure upon Professor McCoy for having acted as he had done. Then followed newspaper correspondence, of the style favoured by the heads of rival institutions, between Dr. Leeper, of Trinity College, and Mr. McFarland, of Ormond College. Thus the force of public opinion was excited, and the upshot was that the University ordered the re-examination of the papers of the candidates whom Professor McCoy had plucked. Part of the result of this re-examination is given in our news columns. Here we find that the “impression of ignorance” which Dr. McCoy saw so clearly on the geology papers of a particular candidate has faded into nothingness. More than this, the Revising Board has seen fit to pass this candidate in the face of the Professor’s declaration that he had read every line and every word of his papers, that the errors were very numerous in the answers to eight of the ten questions put, and that to give written answers in such a way as to con-
and that on his written answers this candidate was correctly rejected. Professor McCoy is careful to leave no loophole for his own escape from an uncomfortable dilemma. If he was right in rejecting the candidate, how is it that he allowed so interested a person as Dr. Leeper to induce him to alter his decision? If he was wrong in rejecting the candidate, what trust can be placed in University honours when so distinguished an authority as himself shows the fallibility of examiners? Indeed, the fact would appear to be that Professor McCoy has now become fully qualified for a life of learned leisure. He is a distinguished student of nature, and he has earned as many laurels and been the recipient of as many tributes to his work as fall to the lot of most men. Either the University should relieve him of his examining work or he himself should delegate this work to a man who has got his spurs to win. The history of these examinations is discreditable in the highest degree, and is, moreover, calculated to diminish people's faith in University distinctions. They would seem now—so far as some subjects in Melbourne are concerned—to hang upon the "impressions" of examiners, which impressions are liable to be obliterated when sufficient outcry is made and the power of the Press, as expressing public opinion, is brought to bear. The University should be without fear of public remonstrance or without reproach of injustice. Students should be in a position to think that their papers are thoroughly examined by responsible men, and that, this being granted, there is no appeal. How is it that one never hears of English University men complaining in the papers of injustice? It is simply because there the work of examining is entrusted to men who do not go by "impressions," and whose dicta no one would venture to question. It may be assumed that the recent disclosures will tend to make heads of Colleges and examiners alike more careful; the one class will be slow to use its influence just as the others will be more cautious about its decisions. If this happy result is attained the Melbourne University will not have occasion to regret the scandal of its last examinations.