

therefore decided to place the super-structure upon the foundations which had been laid. Full arrangements were completed for a five years' course and for the granting, at its conclusion, of degrees which should be on a par with the best conferred in other parts of the British Empire, and which therefore should be recognised by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom, entitling the holder to claim a licence to practise in any part of the Queen's dominions, and in any place outside of them in which British degrees are accepted.

The work achieved since that step was carried into execution has proved to demonstration not only that South Australia possesses in its University and in its Hospital the needful facilities for imparting a sound medical education, but that its students—most of them born and bred in the colony—possessed the talent, the industry, and the character to make really efficient practitioners of the healing art. Some of those who have obtained their degrees have won golden opinions from almost every one with whom they have come in contact, and many colonists have felt that, while accessions of specially capable men from abroad were always to be welcomed, yet for the general body of members of the profession the resources of the colony were sufficient to ensure a supply from among the rising generation at home. But the policy of the Government which now abuses the trust reposed in it by Parliament has been for its own party purposes to import doctors from abroad and to banish local talent from our shores. Recognising that under the new conditions at the Adelaide Hospital it would be absolutely a farce to send fourth and fifth year students into that institution for practical and theoretical instruction, the Council of the University appointed a committee to confer with one selected from the Hospital Board and put in a plea urging the Government and the Board to arrange for the setting apart of two or three wards having at least eighty beds—that being the minimum recognised as an educational hospital under the rules of the General Medical Council—and for the admission of qualified medical and surgical teachers, along with the students, in order that proper lectures and clinical demonstrations might be given. The negotiations, however, ended in failure. In this connection it is only fair to say that the University authorities have, throughout the whole dispute, striven to maintain an impartial and, if

possible, an absolutely neutral attitude. When, however, individual members of that institution were asked by the students whether their studies in the Adelaide Hospital would be satisfactory in such circumstances as those involved in the exclusion of all their qualified preceptors—the principal professor actually lying under the stigma of dismissal for his firmness in upholding sound surgical methods—they could not possibly give an affirmative answer.

The rules of the General Medical Council provide for the recognition of qualifications only on condition that separate teachers are engaged to lecture on distinct branches of study like medicine, surgery, anatomy, physiology, *materia medica*, botany, and midwifery. It should be observed that the University is the only "qualifying body" in the colony as defined by Imperial legislation regulating the granting of qualifications for colonial and foreign degrees, and that the Government cannot appoint any recognised lecturer. Of course such a contingency as that the Professor of Anatomy in the University should be dismissed by a political Board, and forbidden to enter the Hospital because his professional opinion did not coincide with that of a medical man imported by the Government, could not be provided for. It was taken for granted that if a Professor or lecturer gave certain instruction at the University he would be in a position to explain and to illustrate it at the Hospital. Whether it would be considered a satisfactory fulfilment of the General Medical Council's conditions to have one Professor, say of surgery, lecturing at the University on the standard methods of performing operations, while another in the Hospital was placing at the disposal of the students a few scraps of his time in, it may be, demonstrating methods of practice evolved out of his own inner consciousness and in defiance of the weight of professional opinion all the world over, we shall not stay to enquire. At any rate the risk would be too great for any student to face with equanimity. Doubtful teaching is bad enough in itself; but when to it is added the danger of acquiring only a doubtful degree the game is not really worth the candle. Like other establishments in receipt of public money, the University is naturally chary of taking up any attitude which might be construed into criticism of the Ministry in power, and at the last Senate meeting