

course certainly exhibit a decline, but as the enrolments have advanced from ten to thirteen it is not unlikely—assuming that the existence of the School is prolonged—that better results in this respect will be shown in the future. The number of those ambitious to obtain the musical degree is distinctly diminishing, but as a set off against this the public examinations are well-maintaining their hold upon the community. The number of students submitting their attainments in both theory and practice to the test provided was greater in 1895 than in 1894, and the proportion of passes was about the same. Nothing has yet been done to meet the objections that are persistently being offered to the present system of one examiner, but the University authorities cannot be blind to the reasonableness of the complaint, and it is to be presumed that ere long the desiderated alteration will be made.

The Register.

ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1896.

THE ADELAIDE HOSPITAL.

The die is cast and the new departure in the management of the Adelaide Hospital finally adopted. So long as the proposal to replace the honorary staff with two permanent medical officers remained merely a proposal there was a hope that wiser counsels would prevail, and that in some way a step so fatal to the interests of the Hospital would be averted. This hope is now, of course, absolutely at an end, and the alienation of the great body of the medical profession from the principal local institution provided for the accommodation and treatment of the sick poor has been successfully accomplished. No doubt the Premier exults in the triumph he has achieved, and can count upon his political

supporters—who evidently have been taught to think that he can do no wrong—to applaud his victory; but, unfortunately, the end is not yet. The experiment of carrying on by means of a Senior Surgeon and a Senior Physician the professional work of an Hospital ordinarily housing between two and three hundred patients, suffering from all sorts of ailments and disorders, has yet to be tried, and it is not difficult to foresee the result. No doubt the work will be carried on somehow, and the fact that nominally

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there is at the head of affairs a Board of Management in complete sympathy with the altered order of things, and acting in complete subserviency to the dictators of the new policy, will be a guarantee that the public will not receive much enlightenment as to any unsatisfactory results that may ensue. More than that, it is certain that many sufferers who in the regular course would seek relief at the Hospital will by hook or crook find means of receiving treatment from the men who have been driven from the institution to which they have in the past ungrudgingly devoted so much attention. But that the establishment will suffer, and suffer severely, from the substitution of two officials, whatever their qualifications, for seventeen practitioners, including several specialists of acknowledged distinction in their profession, is only too apparent.

The circumstances under which the doors were at the last closed against all amicable arrangements having in view the avoidance of the costly and objectionable alternative to which the colony has been committed, are quite in keeping with the conduct of the Government throughout the whole of this Hospital trouble. A correspondence which we publish elsewhere shows that in connection with the affair the Premier has gone out of his way to belie his oft-reiterated professions on the subject of conciliation. Even if the idea of recognising Mr. Copley as mediator was distasteful to him—and taking his idiosyncracies into account we can quite understand that he could not brook the idea of accepting the good offices of a political opponent—there was surely no call for the adoption of such a studiously hostile and offensive attitude towards the late medical staff. Running through the Premier's letter in reply to Mr. Copley is the assumption that he must necessarily be in the right, and the staff and all in sympathy with them absolutely in the wrong. Instead of holding out the olive branch, as any one in his position possessing a spark of magnanimity might

fairly have done, he in effect demanded as a preliminary to any exhibition of his gracious clemency that the medical men should come on bended knee to him and plead for restoration to his favour. Such an attitude was eminently calculated to defeat all attempts at reconciliation, and the honourable gentleman's after-conduct gives colour to the impression that this was his deliberate object. Acting on the hint that whatever was done to bring about a compromise must be done quickly, Mr. Copley hastened to town and employed himself diligently