

The Register 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1898.

EXTENSION OF THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL EXAMINATIONS.—Mr. C. R. Hodge, the Registrar of the Adelaide University, left on a visit to Perth, Western Australia, by the Britannia on Thursday last. An important part of his mission is to arrange for local examinations in theory of music to be held in that town. A committee is already formed there; but up to the present only examinations in the ordinary scholastic subjects have been conducted. It is confidently anticipated that during the year there will be a large number of Western Australian candidates for primary, junior, and senior musical tests held by the Adelaide University, as Mr. Hodge is going over at the special desire of the Perth committee.

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#### THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The Chief Secretary has called our attention to the following sentence in a leading article in *The Advertiser* on Saturday, dealing with the Adelaide University and its work during the past year:—"Medicine is not represented in the list, but this of course is accounted for by the hospital trouble, and the consequent inability of Adelaide University students to complete their course in the colony." Mr. O'Loghlin points out that there is no occasion whatever for Adelaide University students to go to Melbourne or elsewhere to complete their medical course. The Adelaide Hospital possesses all the qualifications for giving the necessary instructions, and is recognised by the general Medical Council, the Universities, and the examining bodies just the same as before the present staff took charge. Several students who completed their medical course at Melbourne University last year had their attendance at the Adelaide Hospital under the present staff recognised in the same way as it would have been under the old staff. Medical students of any university have only to pay fees and attend practice at the hospital to fulfil the requirements of the examiners. There is no necessity whatever for the professors or lecturers of the University to be on the hospital staff where students attend to qualify. The hospital is, as far as regards the Medical School, in every respect in the same position now as it was under the late management. Negotiations, which it is hoped will be successful, are now proceeding between the Council of the University and the Hospital Board, and although it is not essential that the lecturers should be on the hospital staff, there is no doubt that both the board and the Government would welcome some of the University professors on the honorary staff of the hospital.

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"ENQUIRY," West Coast.—The occupations of the players mentioned are:—C. Hill, apprentice S.A. Locomotive Department; F. Jarvis, clerk; A. E. H. Evans, clerk; T. Drew, University student; E. Jones, engaged by the S.A. Cricketing Association; W. F. Giffen, mineowner; J. Reedman, Postal Department; J. McKenzie, artisan.



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Mr. Paris Nesbit, Q.C., who was on January 26 committed to the Lunatic Asylum on a charge of being a lunatic not under proper control and care, was discharged from the institution on Monday afternoon. There will be general agreement with the writer of the following paragraph, which appeared in the *Sydney Bulletin*:—"Handsome Paris Nesbit, Q.C., of South Australia, is another example of the divine saying about the near alliance of great wits and madness. The last letter the present writer received from him recorded an improvement in health. Since then, presumably, the heat oppressed him and Nesbit has gone down. But only for a while. Some years since he was confined in Kew (Vic.), and he devoted his forced leisure to translating into English verse some of Goethe's poems. Not quite the thing you could expect of a lunatic. One of the most cultivated professors of Adelaide University said of Nesbit—and this was a man who had mixed with high literary society in all parts of the globe—that he had the keepest and brightest brain of any man he had met. After a little rest Nesbit will again be seen in his chambers. There is not a better man living than Paris Nesbit, and one wants badly to say this in the hour of his mental darkness."

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#### THE UNIVERSITY IN 1897.

The term "University expansion" is used to signify quite a different movement from "University extension." The latter denotes in a general way the territorial distribution of the benefits of collegiate instruction formerly confined chiefly to those able to reside in or near to the educational centre. In other words, University extension takes higher education to students rather than students to higher education. University expansion, on the other hand, means the enlargement of the scope of the curriculum so that it may embrace subjects of instruction as varied as possible, and that thus the University may really become what its name implies—a universal purveyor of knowledge. Universities have in this sense expanded very rapidly since the collegiate days of Mr. Gladstone, whose recent essay on his Eton friend Arthur Hallam refers to a facility in writing Greek iambics as if it were the very acme of scholarship. Modern students devote much less study to such accomplishments than was given to them by those of Mr. Gladstone's day, partly because they have many much more useful subjects to engage their attention than mere classical *tours de force*. University expansion has at so many points brought the highest scholastic institutions into touch with the practical lives and the scientific thought of the people that there is ample room for the fullest culture without falling back upon the making of verses in a dead language. In the annual report for 1897 of the University of Adelaide five different directions in which it is proposed to enter upon a policy of expansion are briefly indicated. Of these we have already discussed in



detail the schemes for a Conservatorium of Music, at which the classes are intended to begin next month, and for the extension of the science curriculum so that it shall embrace mining and metallurgy, and enable the University to compete with that of Sydney in offering a really valuable diploma for mining managers, engineers, and metallurgists.

A very significant new departure, about which very little has hitherto been said, is foreshadowed in the last page of the Report, care being taken to explain that the Council is awaiting the final approval of the Government before publishing the details of the scheme. The University now proposes to educate—free of cost either to themselves or to the Government—a staff of State school teachers, and to provide for them instruction in the art of teaching as well as in general education. At the last conference of the Teachers' Union the establishment at the University of a Chair of Pedagogy was suggested. Through the liberality of the late Sir Thomas Elder—whose munificent bequest of £65,000 brings the total of his benefactions to the institution up to almost exactly £100,000—the University would doubtless be able to establish a professorship of the art of teaching. Of the bequest £25,000 may be devoted to any purpose which the University authorities consider best, and the institu-

tion will be doing a grand work by applying a large proportion of this sum to improving and extending the facilities offered to teachers for acquiring a good education. The present system entails upon most of the teachers the necessity for working in school all day and then studying for their examinations all night, and this is injurious to themselves and indirectly hurtful to the best interests of the scholars. There is, as indicated by the University report, plenty of room for reform in the direction of "educating a staff of teachers for the public service who shall have the best available instruction for the longest possible time, as regards their general education and their skill and efficiency as teachers." In addition to this much-needed work the £25,000 will enable the University to offer a number of extra free scholarships to meritorious students, some of whom will doubtless become teachers. Every unprejudiced person may be impressed by the forgiving spirit manifested in the proposal of such a scheme to the Government when the Medical School is to a large extent under suspension on account of Ministerial bluff and blundering; but, after all, Ministers of the Crown are but of yesterday and to-day, with a doubtful to-morrow. The interests of the teachers and of the children placed under their care are the main consideration, and they should not be injured