

built in the city, and not spend any money in the piling up of more bricks and mortar; but to adopt this course would involve a departure from the homogeneity which should rightly characterize the arrangements of the highest educational institution in the land.

The difficulty might be overcome if the University authorities were permitted to build the Conservatorium on the site now intended for the Art Gallery, and the whole matter is capable of treatment on businesslike lines. The Government has spent about £600 in putting in foundations for the Gallery. Very well; the University can utilize these foundations for the Conservatorium, pay to the Government the amount which they cost, and proceed at once to expend the £10,000 already mentioned, not a penny of which will come out of the national exchequer. It will thus be seen that the new proposal would not involve the loss of any public money already spent. It would undoubtedly be more costly to erect the eastern wing of the Public Library than to put up the detached Gallery, but so it is more expensive to buy a whole suit of clothes than to purchase only part of a suit. It is estimated roughly that the construction of the Gallery for which foundations have been laid would involve an expenditure of from £13,000 to £15,000. The expense of the completion of the wing would probably be about £25,000. For the larger outlay, however, the Government would have a much more valuable property than for the smaller, and the administrative expenses of the public institutions concerned would be substantially less every year. The Art Gallery already designed would have only one floor; the wing would have three floors, which means that the area available for use would be thrice as much. From whatever point of view the two schemes may be regarded, the superiority of the one contemplating the completion of the Public Library Block will be apparent. On the plainest mathematical rules of business it may be

safely recommended, quite apart from the gain represented by the enhanced architectural and artistic appearance which the extra expenditure would give to North-terrace. With the eastern and western wings of the stately Library block complete — with the bright-tinted Museum in the background, masked behind a profusion of waving palms and other attractive verdure, gracefully diversified by plashing fountains and marble statues here and there—the centre of

"The Register" 20th Nov. 1897.

North-terrace would be one of the most ornamental beauty-spots in the city; and there is a special fitness in consulting the æsthetic tastes of the people in connection with the housing of the institutions in which the principles of high culture are inculcated. And, even from the most strictly utilitarian point of view, there would be an economical advantage in giving a picturesque aspect to the architecture of such a site. Example set by a Government in this way reacts on private individuals. If the State were content to provide squalid or architecturally inharmonious edifices in such a situation private persons would be apt in arranging their buildings in the vicinity to work down to the Government pattern. Thus cheap and unsightly structures would be placed where commodious and substantial and attractive buildings should appear; and the difference which the contrast represents in the solid value of the city assets is too obvious to need demonstration.

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MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY.

Thirty-two candidates, whose names appeared in Monday's *Register*, have passed the senior practical examination in music at the University. The list is a great advance upon that of 1896, which showed only twenty-three successes. Nine candidates secured a first-class for playing the pianoforte, while in the violin and organ sections only one in each case obtained that coveted distinction. The examinations this year are particularly noteworthy, as they are the first under the new joint arrangement with the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music in London; and the presence of Mr. Lee Williams as an examiner will undoubtedly impart an additional element of value to the certificates received. In other respects the University, through the bequest of the late Sir Thomas Elder, is on the eve of important developments connected with musical education in South Australia. On the agenda-paper for the next meeting of the Senate the only business relative to musical study is the formal adoption of the title of "Elder Professor of Music" by the holder of the Chair of Music. The larger matters pertaining to the proposed establishment of a Conservatorium will evidently require more consideration than could be given to them in the short time available if an attempt were made to bring the new institution into operation at the beginning of next year.

THE NORTH-TERRACE BUILDING
QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Your suggestions regarding the Government Buildings and Art Gallery deserve serious consideration from those who have the biggest say in the manipulating of the large amount of money about to be spent on North-terrace. Most of us are proud of the prettiness and neatness of little Adelaide, and North-terrace, with its fine Government buildings one side and many large private houses on the other side, ought always to be one of our beauty spots. Writing of that space in the front of the Museum you remark—"With the bright-tinted Museum in the background, masked behind a profusion of waving palms and other attractive verdure, gracefully diversified by flashing fountains and marble statues here and there." That is romantic, and refers certainly to the future. In reality at present this space is one of the most untidy and ill-kept spots in Adelaide, being nothing more than a collection of dust-heaps which have been there for twelve months or more. Visitors to Adelaide in the jubilee time, and some of our political friends from across our borders who came to the Convention, must have noticed the back-yard appearance of this space. Another matter may be mentioned. Scores of people who are active enough to make shortcuts do not care to walk up or down for a considerable way along the inside path in order to get into the main-road of the terrace. Coming or going to the Museum or Public Library they simply jump over or scramble through the wire fence and cut through the plantation. Surely a footpath 3 or 4 ft. wide could be made through the plantation, coming out right in line with the main entrance of the Museum, which, if your suggestions are followed, will be the central point of the block of buildings. If this were done, jumping over or through the fence could be stopped by fining a few caught in the act. Children like to sit and play in the plantation, and why should they be denied this pleasure? They are safe and free from harm here, and perhaps not more than 200 or 300 yards from their homes. North-terrace has become the dinner-hour promenade, and very sensibly so, for many respectable young men and women engaged in business in and near Rundle-street. During the scorching hot days in summer many young fellows prefer to have a lounge and smoke in the plantation, where the shade of the trees and green colour and softness of the grass are particularly refreshing and help to break the monotony of the business hours. Why are there no seats?

I am, Sir, &c.,

C. SAWTELL.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Your excellent article in Saturday's issue respecting the Government buildings on North-terrace is timely in trying to stop a waste of public money, and giving a possible chance of having those unsightly gunsheds removed to their proper place—the new parade-ground. In addition to their dilapidated appearance they are unsuited for their purpose. The space is all too limited for practical work being carried on in them, and, to make matters worse, the ground in front of the shed is totally unfit and unsafe to drill men on at gundrill, being uneven and littered up with mullock left there by the public works authorities. Unless something is done an accident may occur, and if one does come off I trust that the blame will be put on the party who is responsible for the condition of the so-called artillery parade-ground. The sooner new gunsheds are built sufficiently large to take in both field and machine guns the better for the branches concerned, to say nothing of their efficiency and the comfort of the men. At present the field-guns are housed in an old cowshed, the machine-guns in a totally out-of-the-way place at the Old Exhibition Buildings. Why a substantial shed answering all requirements was not put up when the new parade-ground was made is not quite understandable, unless it is that somebody in authority is of the opinion that anything is good enough for Tommy Atkins, who takes all risks for little or no pay. At the eastern end of the drill-ground a piece of ground is available that would answer the purpose admirably. It is to be regretted that hardly a single patriotic M.P. take the trouble to enquire how things are going on in our little army, or for that matter seems to care either. Will some of them please wake up?

I am, Sir, &c.,

MAXIM.