UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

History records that Universities were intended originally for the poor but on account of the quality of their discipline and the innate craving for knowledge which is in the human nature, the rich were attracted to them, and consequently their character universalised. While, however, there is a tendency for such institutions to become more or less the retreat of the social classes which encourage them, they have never entirely deserted from their original intention, and have at various stages of their history endeavoured to bring "higher education" to the people in need of it. Such an effort was made during the last century. In November, 1845, an address was presented to the Hebdomadal Board of the University of Oxford, requesting that means might be adopted for the admission of a poorer class itself to the advantages of that institution. Among the suggestions made was the establishment of lectures by subscription to which the poor might contribute. This was the beginning of the Oxford University Extension, which included the abolition of admission fees; the establishment of matriculated universities in London and other centres; and that system of imparting instruction by means of reading lectures which is specially connected by the phrase in modern times, "University Extension." In 1848, Mr. Montague Burton, the educationist, visited some of the centres of this work and was sufficiently impressed to attempt an extension of the work on the part of the University to bring the benefits of an education to the young men whom he regarded as the sons of the people, and to the men and women who had been previously cut off from the benefits of education. The encouragement of characters in Professor Hunter's lectures on "The Middle Ages," which concerns itself with the study of history and literature, and the influence it has exercised upon the popular mind, is a further testimony to the success of the movement. The extension of the University is the result of a long and patient effort, and has been accomplished in the interests of the poor and the needy. The University Extension is now in operation in England and Wales, and has been made to serve the poor and the needy, providing education and learning, and has been a great and beneficent work.