THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

By W.C. Westreth, M.A.

The origin of the Sydney University may be traced to the year 1855, when steps were taken for "the erection and endowment of a grammar school in the town of Sydney." Following on these acts of education, a grammar school was founded in the year 1858, and the building of which it became "the Sydney College," it was at the time not recognized as a university but was destined to become the Sydney Grammar School. These buildings were opened in 1858, with 65 pupils, the school continuing to be known as the Sydney College. Endowing various institutions, the young enterprise struggled on until in 1863 a petition was presented to the Legislative Council from the proprietors of the college, praying for the adoption of measures to convert the institution into a university, and stating their willingness to hand over their college to any body of persons possessing the means to carry out this object.

This petition was the crux of the future University of Sydney. The Legislative Council accepted the offer, and assumed the responsibility of the necessary initial steps. The committee for the furtherance of this project consisted of W. C. Westreth, E. D. Maclean (Principal), John J. Macleay (Agent), J. M. Macleay (Agent), and J. A. Macleay. The latter was succeeded by A. J. Macleay, who continued in office until 1880.

On February 1, 1859, Sir Charles Flinders being Governor, the act of incorporation received the royal assent, the colony at that time having a population of only 30,000. As Mr. H. E. Bruce, M.A., wrote...