



UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE—FRONT OF THE MAIN BUILDING.

## EDUCATION SQUARE.

### I.—THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

#### REMARKABLE PROGRESS.

[By our Special Reporter.]

It is not on record that Mr. Foster Fraser, the well-known journalist, visited the University on North terrace before he penned the already much-quoted phrase "Adelaide for culture," but possibly one of the factors which contributed to form his impression of the Central State's capital was a knowledge of the remarkable forward strides made by higher education in a little more than 30 years. As the Premier (Hon. A. H. Peake) remarked on a recent occasion, the progress of the University indicated the progress of South Australia, and how strong has been the development may be judged from the fact that during even the last 10 years the number of students has been almost doubled. Mr. Foster Fraser must, at any rate, have had his attention called to the magnificent group of buildings on North terrace which go to form nearly a complete "Education Square"—a feature of the city, with few parallels the world over—and the University, with its associated activities, comprises a substantial portion of them. Largely on account of "the era of private munificence" in relation to it, the institution has carried on a great work, and the fact that the Government was recently appealed to for additional aid "for the first time in 20 years," was because the council is contemplating large extensions. The hope has been expressed that the area of land at its disposal will be increased by incorporating with it the site nearby, at present occupied by the mounted police barracks, the military staff office, and the Destitute Asylum, by the removal of those departments to more suitable positions elsewhere.

#### Expansion Mooted.—

The University of Adelaide has had to do with about five acres of land, and regards with something approaching envy the parklike tracts surrounding the principal seats of learning in Melbourne, Sydney, and elsewhere. In few similar institutions, indeed, have the authorities ever been so hampered for space as to be faced with difficulties on that score when questions of enlargement have been brought forward.

Among the schemes proposed to be dealt with at some future time are the establishment of Veterinary and Dental Colleges, and students' residential quarters, such as exist in the other States and famous seats of learning in the old world. Additions to the general and medical libraries, a law lecture room and library, additional general lecture rooms, buildings for geological and mineralogical purposes, microscopic room, storeroom, botanic school, with equipments, caretakers' quarters, and other rooms, are said to be necessary in view of the headway made and likely to be made.

#### —The Inaugural Year.—

The first term of the year is just beginning at the University. The institution was established by Act of Parliament in 1874, and in 1881 Royal Letters Patent were issued by Queen Victoria declaring that the degrees granted by it should be recognised as academic distinctions and rewards of merit, and be entitled to rank, precedence,

and consideration throughout the British Empire as if granted by any university in the United Kingdom. The University owes its origin to the munificence and public spirit of the late Sir Walter Watson Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder, from each of whom a gift of £20,000 was received for the purpose. Bronze statues of the two benefactors occupy conspicuous positions in the grounds. Further endowments were granted by Parliament, and provision was made for an annual grant from the public revenues, not to exceed in any one year the sum of £10,000. Mjr-General Sir W. F. D. Jervois, at that time Governor of South Australia, laid the foundation stone of the main building, which is in the Gothic style of architecture, on July, 1879, and the opening ceremony was performed by him in April, 1882. The academical work of the

University actually began in March, 1876, in temporary quarters, with eight undergraduates, and 52 non-graduating students attending lectures. Arts was then the only faculty; whereas to-day, in addition to that course, degrees are obtainable in science, law, medicine, and music, and diplomas are awarded in relation to applied science, commerce, and music.

#### —First Four Professors.—

At first the professorships were four in number, and in the following subjects:—(1) Classics and Comparative Philology and Literature (Rev. Henry Read, M.A.); (2) English Language and Literature, Mental and Moral Philosophy (Rev. John Davidson); (3) Mathematics (Professor Herace Lamb, M.A.); and (4) Natural Science (Professor Ralph Tate, F.G.S.). The first and second were established in accordance with the terms of Sir Walter Watson Hughes's donation, and bear his name. The third and fourth bear in the same way the name of Sir Thomas Elder.

#### —Increase of Students.—

It may now be appropriate to mention how the numbers have grown. After six years of work the undergraduates had increased to 53, and non-graduating students to 99, and a decade later there were eight professors, 13 other lecturers, 93 undergraduates, and 187 non-graduating students. The latest figures are 10 professors, 29 lec-

torers and demonstrators, 10 teachers in the Elder Conservatorium of Music, 389 undergraduates, 269 non-graduates, and 381 Conservatorium students. Others engaged at the University, including the staff of the Registrar (Mr. C. R. Hodge), the Accountant (Mr. F. W. Eardley), the Mechanician (Mr. A. L. Rogers), the Librarian (Mr. R. J. M. Lucas, B.A.), cadets, and caretakers, number 23.