

of dentistry and veterinary science, adequate staffs will be required. In the event of the Government taking action in accordance with the report of the Commission to establish free examinations for leaving certificates, it would be desirable for the University to give up, or considerably modify, its present system of public examinations, and assist in the general scheme, though the net income of the University now benefits by the examination fees to the extent of about £1,000 a year.

Summary.

"The total cost under the above six heads may be summarised as follows:— (a) New annual expenditure, namely:— Additions to staff, £6,300; new annual equipment, £1,000; total, £7,300; (b) new buildings and equipment of laboratories, £24,400. The council would respectfully call the attention of the Government to page 28 of the final report of the Commission in which the incomes of the four Australian Universities for 1912 are stated as follows:—

	Govt. grant.	Total receipts.
Sydney .. .. .	£43,956	£87,273
Melbourne .. ..	£37,403*	£76,729
Adelaide .. .. .	£11,203	£26,799
Brisbane .. .. .	£12,500	£17,319

\*Including building grant of £10,200.

The recently established University of Brisbane, with no school of either medicine or law and with but 176 students, is thus in receipt of a larger Government grant than the University of Adelaide, with over 700 students, exclusive of those in the School of Music and with schools to maintain in arts, science, medicine, law, engineering, music, and commerce. The needs of a University are, however, determined not so much by the number of its students as by the standard of its degrees and by the courses of instruction which it should offer. The number of students at this University is relatively

large compared with the population of the State, but the buildings, laboratories, and the numerical strength of the staff are not adequate to the work that is now undertaken, and still less to the work that is waiting. In the light of the foregoing figures, the council respectfully asks that the annual endowment of the University be increased from £11,200 (at which it stands at present) to £20,000."

Risks to be Avoided.

Professor Stirling said the work of the University was neither expanding as it should do to keep it abreast of the times, and on a par with the Universities of Melbourne and Sydney, nor were they able to maintain the efficiency of the departments in the existing schools. There was a danger under present conditions of the University becoming stagnant for the want of progress. That meant that there was a risk that the University of Adelaide might become a second-class institution, or that other people would regard it in that light. He was sure that neither the Premier nor the Government wished to see such an occurrence. There should be an increase in the teaching power of the institution. Apart from botany, there had been no new professor appointed for the past twelve years. There had been a great increase in the number of students during recent years. That was an evidence that the University was fulfilling its purpose in attracting students. One important reason for that had been the very liberal policy adopted by the Government in increasing the number and value of the bursaries. Owing to the great number of students in the different classes there was an absence of that touch between the teacher and the taught which was so necessary if the best results were to be achieved. While they appreciated all that the Government had done for them, they were bound to compare Adelaide's position with the positions of Sydney and Melbourne. In Adelaide, with its smaller financial resources, they were expected to teach the same subjects in as efficient a manner as in the eastern States, and the same standard was expected in regard to the degrees.

The Medical School.

He particularly emphasised the importance of the medical school, and other speakers would touch in detail with the other departments. They had always been without the services of a professor of pathology; yet he knew of no other medical school in the world without such a professor. Bio-chemistry was a line of development along which great advances would be made. It was only by duplicating the classes—that was by absolutely repeating the same work—that they had been able to get the medical students through at all. They had turned out 142 graduates, most of whom were now earning a good living, and the number of medical students now studying was 78.

Opportunities for Expansion.

The University authorities, Professor Stirling added, realised that agriculture was a very proper subject for the University to take up, but their funds had not enabled them to do so. As they had a school of medicine the addition of a chair of dentistry would be very useful, and it was asked for at the present time. So also there was an opening for them to include veterinary science. All those were directions in which they saw they could play a useful part, but they had not provided for them in the figures mentioned in the memorandum.

Another Comparison.

The Government assistance granted to the University of Melbourne amounted to over £200,000. The Sydney institution had received over £400,000. The University of Adelaide had spent £85,000 odd, to which the Government had contributed £30,000, of which £12,000 was granted in 1911. For 23 years from 1888 to 1911 no contribution whatever for buildings had been received, although the University had spent £35,000 from its limited funds, with a consequent cramping of its energies in other directions. Compared with Melbourne, in the proportion on account of difference in population of one to three, Adelaide should have received £66,000, while compared with Sydney, on the basis of one to four, Adelaide should have got £100,000, instead of £30,000. Although the Brisbane University had only 176 students, as compared with Adelaide's 700, it received a larger annual Government grant.

Other Aspects.

Professor Chapman spoke of the specific needs of the University in connection with the faculty of science. Professor Naylor, on behalf of the faculty of arts, said they were not asking for what were luxuries, but mere necessities. At present the professors were expected to cover so many subjects that it was quite impossible for them to do full justice to them all. In a young country like Australia there should be a chair of political economy, for practical experiments in that subject were going on around them. Such a professor might take a couple of subjects in connection with the movement of the Workers' Education Association, or even be made a kind of director of the whole scheme. Mr. G. Brookman, speaking of the financial aspect of the question, said the expenses of the University amounted annually to £27,000, out of which the Government were giving £11,000, whereas the State was expending £220,000 a year on primary education. That showed that the requests of the University were not unreasonable.

A Favorable Reply.

The Minister stated, in reply, that he realised that, whereas the University was once regarded from afar with the greatest admiration, as a place a person without wealth or wealthy parents could scarcely hope to enter, it was now looked upon as belonging to the State and to the people in a way it was not so regarded in former times. He appreciated the arguments put forward by the deputation that, having done so much for the primary branches of education, the very crown and flower of the system should not be neglected. They contended that out of the amount of money spent on the education system of the State, the University had not received the share to which it was entitled. He thought the members of the deputation and himself were agreed that the students of the University of Adelaide must not be less equipped than the students of other Universities in Australia. Stagnation must not be permitted. The number of the chairs must be enlarged, in order that their students would be as fully equipped as those in other States. He was quite confident in saying his colleagues had the greatest admiration for the work of the University, and a keen desire to assist it. They realised that the institution was small to-day, as compared with what it must become in the future. A little while ago the Government practically said that the borders of the University were to be enlarged by the reservation of ground that would become vacant before long, in order that provision should be made for the growth of the institution. With regard to the equipment, he thought the members of the deputation, knowing the exact requirements of the institution, did the right thing in going straight to the Government and making their needs known, rather than waiting for pressure to be brought to bear from outside. They had approached a Minister and a Government, who would be sympathetic in regard to their demands. He had that morning received a letter from the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way), setting out the facts on which their requests had been based. He would go into the matter very carefully and put the case before his colleagues strongly and sympathetically, and he thought they would find the Government very ready to come to their help.

The Advertiser

ADELAIDE: THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1914.

THE UNIVERSITY.

The Premier yesterday was met with what at first sight may seem a somewhat formidable request from a deputation representing the council of the University. He was asked to make a grant of £24,000 for new buildings and the equipment of laboratories, together with an additional subsidy of £7,300 a year to the funds of the institution in order to provide for its needs in the way of staff and equipment. Mr. Peake gave a sympathetic reply, recognising the strength of the arguments urged by the speakers, and enforced independently by the Chancellor, Sir Samuel Way, and stating that he thought the council would find the Government when they had fully considered the matter "very ready to come to their help." With that reply the public will sympathise. Among the institutions which make up the social organisations of the State, there is none with a better record than the University. Not only has it played its part in fostering learning and the love of learning, and thus combating the disposition to a crude materialism which is apt to degrade the life of a young community, but it has acted as the training ground for professional men of all classes with results which are certainly very gratifying. Graduates from our University occupy high places in the State and elsewhere, and the degrees granted have obtained honorable recognition abroad. In medicine alone the University has turned out 142 graduates, and it need not be added that the clerical and legal professions have profited by the training imparted by the University, which is certainly as severe as, if not more severe than, is given at most kindred seats of learning in the Empire. Its progress, especially of late years, has been remarkable, and now when, like the proverbial boy, bursting through his relatively shrunken clothes, it is approaching a vigorous maturity, it would be lamentable if its efficiency, or even its existence as a first-rate institution, were threatened by a prosaic but very real danger—want of funds.

If the increased contribution now demanded from the State looks considerable at the first blush, it must be remembered that the University is deriving less support from the State in proportion to its total receipts than are any of the other leading Universities of Australia. The institution, like its sisters in the other States, owes much to private munificence, without which it could not have reached or retained its present position; but a body which fulfils national purposes so important has a claim on the general taxpayer. Even those who do not go so far as to agree that the University should open its doors to all and sundry without payment of fees at all will cordially subscribe to the doctrine that our educational system should have a worthy apex, and will question with Mr. Brookman whether the £11,000 a year now paid by the Government represents a fair proportion of the total, amounting to hundreds of thousands, expended on education. The general trend of feeling is in the direction of expecting more and not less from the University, as shown by the proposal to identify it very closely with the new Workers' Educational Association. The field open to the University is far from covered at present, and will not be nearly covered even by the contemplated expansion of its resources. The munificence of Mr. Peter Waite has made a school of agriculture possible, but the University will need also schools of dentistry and veterinary surgery, to say nothing more, if it is to hold its own with its rivals in the eastern States. If, again, examinations should be made free for the poor