

Perth Sunday Times  
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# POSITION AT THE UNIVERSITY

## A Reply from the Professorial Board

### The Number of Students—"Teaching Staff Working Under Great Difficulties"

Mr. H. E. Whitfeld, chairman of the Professorial Board, writes as follows:—

"In your issue of the 14th inst. there is an article dealing with the University of Western Australia, and it contains several errors, which are liable to create a wrong impression. The number of first-year students is as follows:—

Faculty.	Matriculated students.	Non-matriculated students.
Arts . . . . .	51	89
Science . . . . .	25	14
Engineering . . . . .	13	9
Totals . . . . .	89	112

The University of Queensland opened in March, 1911, with 60 matriculated students, and the enrolment increased during the year to 83, including both matriculated and unmatriculated. The other Australian Universities started with comparatively few students.

"The University began lectures in March, before some of the members of the teaching staff had arrived; consequently it was impossible to hold a proper matriculation examination this year, and the number of non-matriculated students is higher than it will be in future years when the University will conduct its own matriculation. Most of the Training College Students are non-matriculated. Some students who had passed various other examinations were admitted as 'matriculated students, others as non-matriculated, others again were rejected as not sufficiently advanced to attend University lectures. There seems to be an impression in some quarters that this University is doing something exceptional and ridiculous in admitting non-matriculated students at all, but the same thing is done in most Universities. At Sydney University, for instance, there are about 200 non-matriculated students attending various courses of instruction.

"The article implies that the number of students per member of the teaching staff is ridiculously low, whereas it is exceptionally high—higher than in the other Australian Universities—and has only been possible because first-year work alone was undertaken this year, and the full laboratory courses could not be given.

"With regard to the question of laboratory courses, again your article is hardly just. Practical work has been carried out in geology, biology and engineering drawing, graphics, etc., and there was practically no available accommodation for these at the Technical School. About £12,000 worth of books and scientific apparatus is being ordered for next year's teaching, and a considerable amount of this equipment has already arrived. Provided that the Senate and the Legislature can come to an arrangement about the buildings, exchange of lands, etc., there is nothing to prevent the University from providing efficient courses of instruction to the many students who seem disposed to avail themselves of the opportunities offered.

"When the question was discussed of finding accommodation for the University at the Technical School last March, the Technical School authorities could only offer the use of five or six rooms. As the University at present occupies 29 rooms of various sorts and sizes, and finds them quite inadequate, it is obvious there was no room

for the University at the Technical School. Indeed, if things turn out here as they did at Brisbane, the starting of the University is likely to lead to a fresh influx of students to the Technical School, and that body will require all its accommodation for itself.

"With regard to the temporary buildings themselves, the interior, at all events, is quite good enough for anyone. Surely it is no disgrace to use Jarrah, which can hold its own with any timber in the world either for appearance or durability? As far as the members of the teaching staff are concerned, they would rather see the money spent in equipment than in providing a showy exterior to the University.

"The teaching staff, especially in the science department, is certainly working under great disabilities at present, but is doing its best to remove them. The same thing has happened at the starting of most other Universities, and nothing is gained by making things appear worse than they are. Already the most ridiculous reports about the University have been circulated in some sections of the Eastern press, and if, in addition, erroneous statements are published in our own press, it may damage the prestige not only of the University but of the whole State. Moreover, it is quite unnecessary, because anyone is welcome to look over the University or obtain any information from the University office."

We are certainly surprised to learn that there are 201 students at the University; but that surprise is lessened by the statement that 112 of them are non-matriculated. These 112 may be classed as students, but unless they matriculate they never can become graduates or take degrees. In most instances they are young people who are specialising on some particular subject, and may make use of a free University to attend lectures and gain the knowledge they are seeking. But they are not University students in the accepted sense, and as a literal fact there are only 89 of these, and our average per head of the staff is liberal enough.

Professor Whitfeld rather confuses the suggestion that the Technical School could have been made the nucleus of the University. Without additional accommodation the proposal would be impracticable; but supposing the western wing of the Technical School had been erected and handed over to the University temporarily, that would have provided more accommodation than the Jarrah structure now occupied, and in addition the University could easily enough have availed itself of the laboratories at the school. The new wing would cost £10,000. Some £3000 or £4000 has been spent on the Jarrah University and after all it is only temporary. Which would have been the wiser scheme? We repeat that at present it seems absurd to duplicate all these things in a small community like W.A. Of course we appreciate the desire of the Professorial Board to protect the prestige of the University, but the way to do that is to get down to the bed-rock of practicability instead of endeavoring to pursue the study of chemistry and physics without the most elementary accessories.

Mr. C. R. Hodge (Registrar of the Adelaide University) has been away from his office for a week on account of illness. He is now at Port Elliot recuperating.  
Mr. G. K. Smibert (manager of the ...)

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### EDUCATION COMMISSION'S REPORT.

A question was put by Mr. Denny yesterday as to whether the Government intended to carry out all or any of the recommendations of the Education Commission with respect to the administration of the Education Department. Mr. Peake's reply was distinctly evasive. "As I intimated before," he said, "the consideration of the recommendations involves a great deal of work, and it is almost impossible for Ministers, owing to pressure of business, to devote much time to this subject. There is no hope of getting the Education Bill through Parliament this session."

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## UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

### PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD. PRIMARY EXAMINATION, 1913.

Number of candidates entered, 1,030; number of certificates gained, 67. The following is a list of the candidates to whom certificates will be issued. They have passed in English, grammar, composition, and diction; arithmetic; and in two at least of the following subjects:—Geography (Gg.); English history (H); Greek (Gk.); Latin (L.); French (F.); German (Gn.); Algebra, (Al.); Geometry (Gt.); Drawing (D.); Theory of Music (M.):—

- Abbott, Lila Jane, Gg., H., Al., Gt., Victor Harbour District High School; Abell, Charles Meriton, Gg., H., L., Al., Gladstone District High School; Adam, Robert Alan, Gg., H., Al., D., Norwood District High School; Adam, Reginald Keith Sorby, Gg., H., L., Al., Gt., Jamestown District High School; Adamson, Harold Stanley, H., L., Al., Gt.; Unley District High School; Addison, Bruce, Gg., H., Al., Unley District High School; Aitken, Gordon Percy, H., F., Al., Sacred Heart College, Largs Bay; Alcock, Lucy Ella, H., L., Al., Unley District High School; Allen, Joseph Henry, Gg., H., Al., Unley District High School; Allan, Thomas Price, H., Al., Gt., Prince Alfred College; Altmann, Herbert Franz, Gg., H., L., Gt., Al., Gt., Gawler District High School; Anderson, Jean Ellen, Gg., H., F., Sacred Heart High School, Bunbury; Anderson, Nellie, Gg., H., L., F., Al., Notre Dame des Missions, Fremantle; Anderson, Robert Carl George, L., Al., Gt., Hindmarsh District High School; Angus, John Vernon, Gg., Al., Adelaide High School; Armstrong, Marguerite Elaine, Gg., H., Southern Cross State School; Arthur, Beatrice Pearl May, Gg., H., L., Al., Riverton District High School; Ashton, Joseph Everette, Gg., H., L., Al., Gt., Unley District High School; Avery, Audrey Marcia Helen, Gg., H., St. Joseph's School, Port Adelaide.
- Baddock, Henrietta Gwendoline, H., L., Al., Gt., Hindmarsh District High School; Barker, Alwyn Bowman, H., L., F., Al., Gt., St. Peter's Collegiate School; Barker, Phyllis, H., F., Notre Dame des Missions, Highgate Hill; Barlow, John Butler, H., Gt., Christian Brothers' High School, Fremantle; Barlow, Thomas Arnold, L., Al., Gt., Unley District High School; Barry, Maria, H., F., Al., St. Mary's School, Guildford; Bartlett, Albert James, H., L., Al., Gt., Unley District High School; Barton, Ian Campbell, H., L., Gt., Al., Gt., Prince Alfred College; Batchelor, John Egerton, H., Al., Unley District High School; Beck, Charles Herbert, H., Gt., Adelaide High School; Begg, Percy Raymond, L., Al., Gt., St. Peter's Collegiate School; Bell, Archie Robert, H., Al., Strathalbyn District High School; Bellgrove, Charles Clifford, Gg., H., Al., Hindmarsh District High School; Bennett, Carl Smith, L., Gt., Hindmarsh District High School; Beringer, Elizabeth, Gg., H., F., Al., Presentation College, Geraldton; Berrill, Edward Joseph Hughet, H., Al.; St. Joseph's School, Pirie street; Berry, William Jasper, Gg., H., L., Al., Gt., Hindmarsh District High School; Binna, Constance Jane, Gg., H., Al., Gt., Unley District High School; Bischof, Charlie Corbet, Gg., H., Unley District High School; Bishop, John Arrow Kemp, Gg., H., L., Al., Gt., Mount Barker District High School; Blackwell, Mary Fullarton, H., L., Al., Narra-