THE JARRAH UNIVERSITY
Disappointment of the Dominies and Dons

A Staff Without Appliances—and With Very Few Students

Apparent only to the West Australian University staff, but it has driven him quite mad. He has not more than 15 students ready, and as a consequence the whole thing is far safer of comic opera of the Gilbertian type. We have eight professors and four lecturers. This is an average of less than 10 students each, and no means of carrying on the scientific lectures in a scientific manner. There are no laboratories of equipment of any sort, and it is utterly impossible to confer degrees until these things are available. As a matter of fact, the W.A. University is in existence only in name and for the purpose of wrangling about the most mate rate. It is very much like the Federal capital, inasmuch as each is an expensive toy, played with by pretentious boys in the glory of victorious glory and to achieve a posthumous name by associating their names with public institutions that are calculated to become historical.

There is no doubt in the minds of those looking at the same that the W.A. University should not have been endowed, that it was prepared to teach. Indeed, there are many who consider that the appointment of the professor and most of the permanent University buildings should have been erected, because we are quite certain that such an inordinate sentence was not necessary. But we do say that the essential equipment have been provided. When Mr. H. Gunn, who organised the University, started the University, we say that the University has been engaged in founding the University at Bloomfield in South Africa, and the director of the University has been paid no less than £165,000. Yet here, it W.A. we ask a man to make a start with £165,000. Can there be any wonder there is only chaste and impotence at the garish wooden structure on St. George's Terrace?

It is admitted that the staff is a very able one, equal to that of any University in Australasia. The gentlemen appointed are not only distinguished graduates of other universities, but they have eminent records since taking their degrees, and are also marked by a combination of learning and originality which assures well for the eventual result of their work. We say that the W.A. University must have the best tools if they are to turn out the best articles.

The professors have not got these media, and if we are not very much mistaken they are the most disconsolate men in the country. They are in direct connection with this inevitable attempt of the W.A. University to create a crowning temperance by making the system of education in W.A. They must feel that they are doing things for the good of the Technical School work, and the position of the service of the Professor of Chemistry in W.A. The University preferred the offer, and preferred to continue the present arrangement.

It may be that the Senate or somebody had a drood that if it was demonstrated that the Director of the Technical School could work with the same labour and supervision that the Technical School students would have had no inducements delayed. Well, why not? They have not departed upon a site yet, and will not be resolved that satisfactory arrangements could be made with the Technical School. In fact, it would be true economy, for there is no earthly reason why we should have a duplication of the laboratories and so forth.

Here we are a small community as yet, and we have no need for Technical School from the State, and to anyone outside it must seem absurd that we should have two or more technical appliances doing practically the same work. Indeed, it is clear that a large university is no more possible than a small Technical School, and the means are the same.

At present time we have the spectacle of two institutions for the one object. The University is the University and the Technical School is the University. But that would not be a great move, but an absurd move, and those who were out for glory and professed any such idea as utility and progress, it is ridiculous.

If the University had been established on the aforesaid principle, which was—quite feasible, for if that school can train graduates for the world, it will be admitted that it can do so for the W.A. University. The number of higher instruction in full being and the present unsatisfactory position of things would have been avoided. As it is, the University started a roll of some 200 students. Everyone who went along was listed, but it was found that not more than 50 per cent were educationally. Of those about 70 per cent had been graduated, while the number is now only a little over 100.

Of these about two-thirds are from Claremont, so that a measure of 40 has come from this place. We are in earnest about getting knowledge of the Technical School. Nor can we see that there is much hope in the immediate future of the financial prospects, and cannot possibly find money to start the real buildings or to start them.

Thus, through the gigantic vanglorious of the Chemical faculty, we have that the W.A. University—a staff without appliances and practically with nothing--is.