

EXTENDING THE UNIVERSITY.

A £10,000 Donation.

Anonymous Donor.

As The Register has recorded from time to time, the council of the Adelaide University has been long considering the question of the extension of the usefulness of that institution and how best to secure the means to the attainment of that end. At first the problem presented by the restricted land space represented by "Education square" on North terrace, caused much consideration to be given to the possibility and practicability of removing the present University buildings to some site beyond the city bounds. In November last the transfer of the lunatics from Parkside to some other locality so that the grounds now used by the asylum might be employed for University purposes was discussed by the Education Commission, but the almost unanimous opinion expressed on that occasion and held generally by people best acquainted with the difficulties of the subject is that the present site for the principal seat of learning in the State should be retained, and that the necessary expansion should be provided for by the removal of the Destitute Asylum and the police barracks and portions of the Exhibition enclosures fronting the river. It is now being decided that the destitute inmates shall be removed to a site in the Magill district, and there should be no special difficulty in removing the police barracks. The ground thus cleared and some provision made for the probable extension of the Public Library and Museum buildings, the first expansion of the University would be in the erection of a common hall for dining and social purposes, where the professors and students might meet and strangers might be received; the beginning of a residential college for students so that the learners might be close to their work and what is known as a University atmosphere would be created. Other requirements are the furnishing of the University library, so far as it may be possible, with all things necessary for original research work, among them radium and the instruments associated with its use; and the establishment of a fund out of which monetary assistance might be given in exceptional cases to students engaged in original work.

Conditions of the Gift.

During the last few weeks the University Council has been paying special attention to these considerations, and at a meeting on Wednesday the Chancellor was able to announce that £10,000 had been promised by a citizen of Adelaide, who declines to permit his name to be published, as a basis for a large fund for the purposes indicated. The only conditions of the gift besides that of anonymity are that the land at the back of the University and the School of Mines, which the Hon. J. Verran, when Premier, is understood to have promised, shall be granted by the present Government, and that Ministers shall also give an undertaking, in behalf of the Cabinet, to supplement pound for pound the £10,000 now offered and any further amounts which may be added to the fund constituted by the original donation.

Premier to be Approached.

Arrangements are being made so that an influential and representative deputation shall interview the Premier before his departure for London on February 13. It is obvious that without the assistance of the Government in the way suggested by the donor the whole scheme must lapse, for without the site the expansion of the University is impossible, and without the money the erection of the buildings on the newly granted land cannot be started. Although no definite undertaking has been given, it is understood that further donations await the decision of the Government.

"Many notable men have passed through the University?"

"Yes; Professor Hudson Beare (Regius Professor of Engineering in the University of Edinburgh), Mr. Justice Murray, Professor T. Brailsford Robertson (of the University of California), Mr. W. J. Isbister, and Mr. E. E. Cleland, K.C.; but it is difficult offhand to look back over nearly 30 years and remember all. I may mention that Mr. Donald Campbell and the late Mr. George Ash, M.P., were a couple of men who took up University work late in life, and who passed excellent examinations although they had to do their work here in addition to their Parliamentary duties."

Mr. Hodge married a daughter of the late Mr. Robert Daws, and now lives at Rose Park.

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THE UNIVERSITY SENATE.

A meeting of the Senate of the Adelaide University was held on Tuesday afternoon, when the warden (Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc.) presided over a fair attendance. He explained that the object of the gathering was to consider new regulations which had been framed in regard to the degree of Bachelor of Engineering.

Professor Chapman, who moved the adoption of the new regulations, said it was proposed to substitute the proposed regulations for those passed by the Senate in July last. The previous regulations were criticised by the School of Mines Council, and the new ones were framed to meet the objections of that body. At present the men who took the engineering course partly at the School of Mines and partly at the University, received a B.Sc. degree, a diploma in applied science, and a fellowship of the School of Mines. The previous regulations made provision for such men as had passed through the course receiving the engineering degree in exchange for the degree of B.Sc. and the diploma which they were called upon to surrender. The new regulations did not insist on the surrender of the diploma, but simply on the surrender of the B.Sc. degree. They also made more explicit and clear the provision for allowing work done at the School of Mines prior to matriculation to be recognised as part of the work of the degree.

The Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) seconded the motion for the adoption of the regulations, which was carried.

BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING.

At the meeting of the Senate of the Adelaide University on Tuesday afternoon a new set of regulations in connection with the Bachelor of Engineering degree was adopted. The effect will be that students who take the course partly at the School of Mines and partly at the University will not be required in taking the degree to surrender the diploma in engineering as at present. This will bring engineering students in this State into line with those in Melbourne and Sydney, and it will be of considerable moment to graduates, as the engineering degree is regarded as being of much greater practical value than the degree of B.Sc. Up to the present students in Adelaide have suffered in comparison with those of the other States by being compelled to surrender the diploma in engineering if they exchanged the B.Sc. degree for the Bachelor of Engineering degree.

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Dr. R. Trudinger and Mr. M. Trudinger, sons of Mrs. A. Trudinger, of Norwood, will leave for the Sudan, via London, next month, to undertake work in connection with the Sudan United Mission, in the interests of which the famous missionary and traveller, Dr. Karl Kumm, recently visited Australia. Dr. Trudinger will have charge of a Freed Slaves' Home, and his brother will assist in educational and evangelistic work. Six other members of the Trudinger family are engaged in missionary enterprise in China.

who gave me a cordial welcome and said he knew all about the University of Adelaide. That was a very fair tribute to our institution. Moreover, when at Oxford Mr. Wylie, of the Rhodes Trust, who is in charge of the scholars there, told me the South Australian scholars were among the best men sent up to Oxford, and that the South Australian selection committee had kept up an excellent standard."

"They have all passed through the Adelaide University?"

"Yes. The Adelaide University does not, of course, select them, but the Council annually elect four representatives on the committee." Mr. Hodge is the secretary to that body.

"How do you account for the fame of the Adelaide University?"

"A great deal is due to its liberal policy."

"In what respect is it more liberal than others?"

"In offering greater facilities for obtaining the benefits of university education, notably in providing that candidates may obtain some degrees and pass public examinations under the separate subject system. This is better than the conservative method of compelling them to pass in a group of subjects in each year. Under the old scheme failure usually meant that the student went down for a whole year; now he gets credit for whatever he passes in, and so can go on from stage to stage until his degree is secured. It is only fair to say that this separate subject system does not in any way discount the value of a degree, as the standard has been very much raised under it."

"The other States have not adopted the system?"

No; so far as I am aware it is not followed elsewhere. It does not hold good, of course, in regard to medicine."

"What is your opinion about free universities?"

"I believe the immediate effect of admitting students without payment of fees would result in many of them attending lectures who were really not qualified to begin a course, and disappointment would follow examinations. If, however, the entrance standard were insisted upon and the money represented by fees is forthcoming from other sources, free university education might possibly benefit some who are unable to pay the very low fees now charged."

"To all intents and purposes the University now may be said to be within the reach of every home?"

"Yes. In consequence of the separate subject system and the student being at liberty to take one or more at a time."

The time occupied in securing a degree may be extended, but on the other hand the cost is also spread over a longer period, and so necessarily becomes easier to the man who really wants to get on. Many of these subjects are taken at night, and I can instance several cases in which individuals have completed the course for a degree having done the whole of the work after 5 o'clock. In this way the University has always been very keenly alive to meet the needs of the community. One instance which gives point to this is the establishment of a commercial course."

"Is commerce feeling the benefit of it?"

"I think so. At all events the results are proving satisfactory. We were the first University in Australia to take this subject up. It is essentially a course for people engaged in business, and to show what advantage has been taken of it I may say that the lectures last year were attended as follows:—Accountancy, 53; banking and exchange, 77; commercial geography, 40; and economics, 7."

"What are the ages of the students?"

"From 16 to 17 up to men of middle age."

"How do you account for middle-aged men taking on the course. Is it that they are compelled, by the advance of knowledge and commercial learning, to do this to save themselves from an early descent upon the human scrap heap?"

"It is difficult to say."

"But the proportion of middle-aged men compared with 20 years ago is much greater now than ever it was before."

"Yes; and the answer to that is that before they did not have the facilities to acquire information that are presented to-day. Many men past the age of youth have taken up University work since the inauguration of the separate subject system. The secret is that the lectures being at night or after 5 o'clock they do not have to give up the whole of their time to it, and are able to follow their usual avocations during the day. Twenty years ago for a man to have taken such a course would have meant daily attendance, whereas now he can take up in his spare hours two or three subjects at a time. Then, our extension lectures, which are given all through the country as well as in the city, have had a very beneficial influence."