HIGHER EDUCATION.

TRAINING ENGINEERS.

COMMISSION'S REPORT.

The second progress report of the Royal Commission on the Adelaide University and Higher Education, was laid on the table of the House of Assembly on Thursday. It states:

"Directing the attention of the House to the time now arrived for a general completion of the recommendations made to the commission prior to the presentation of our first report, was one to give the University power to confer the degree of Bachelor of Engineering, and this request has since been repeated. At the present time the University has not this power, although engineering is efficiently taught by the University and the School of Mines. For many years there have been established at the University, in the School of Mines, the courses in mining and electrical engineering, and the School of Mines provides instruction in civil and mechanical engineering. On the successful completion of four years' work, and after having gained a certain amount of practical experience in his profession, a student obtains the Bachelor of Science diploma and the fellowship of the School of Mines. In addition, he passes the senior public examination in mining and electrical engineering, and the degree of Bachelor of Science is conferred on him. For many years there have been established at the University, in the School of Mines, a degree course in metallurgy, and the School of Mines and the University enter into an agreement by which the University and the School of Mines are to work to the work is done by each institution is set out. This agreement is printed in the evidence, in reply to a question, and although the arrangement prevents the establishment of a large engineering school at the University similar to those in Sydney and Melbourne it is in the opinion of the Commission that agreement between the School of Mines and the University would be satisfactory. For the Commission believes that agreement between the University and the School of Mines is not only practicable but beneficial. The Commission recommends that the University conduct teaching in mining and electrical engineering, and the School of Mines conduct teaching in metallurgy and mechanical engineering. On the successful completion of his four years' work, and after having gained a certain amount of practical experience in his profession, a student obtains the University diploma and the degree of Bachelor of Science, in addition, he passes the Senior Public Examination and receives the degree of Bachelor of Science from the University. In the other States, after receiving similar instruction, he is given the degree of Bachelor of Science. The students who have passed the University examinations complain that the University diploma and the degree of Bachelor of Science is not recognized in the scientific world as equivalent to the degrees of the other States. In some professions it is distinctly made a condition of employment that the University be required to the degree of Bachelor of Science at a University recognized by an Australian University. We have learned that there are 38 students who have passed the School of Mines and the University, and who are fully entitled to degrees in engineering, and who are not able to obtain them. The advisability of placing the students of these Universities in an equal footing was clearly put by Sir Langdon Bonython, the President of the Council of Mines and Industries. We were assured by the authorities of the University and the School of Mines that at present there is no overlapping in engineering education, and that the recommendation of the commission will not injure the University by the establishment of a new degree, but that, on the other hand, it will earn for each institution the recognition of the adequacy of the courses by all the universities of the Empire. The commission, however, does not necessarily mean the establishment of a new degree, but that the University be required to confer the degree of Bachelor of Engineering and Master of Engineering.