

The Register.

ADELAIDE; MONDAY, FEB. 13, 1893.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

The University Calendar for the academical year 1893, although it has made its appearance at a somewhat earlier date than most of its predecessors, is a slightly bulkier volume than usual. This increase in size is not, however, it must be confessed, due to any enlargement of the lists of students. The Council and Senate have been kept busy with the revision of the Statutes regulating the different branches of study, and almost without exception the alterations are conspicuously for the better. Among the changes that claim special notice are the enactment of fresh rules affecting the LL.D., LL.B., M.B., and Ch.B. degrees; the adoption of regulations providing for the exemption of graduates in science who enter for the M.B. course from re-examination in the subjects of the first year (that are common to both the M.B. and B.Sc. degree; for establishing an advanced course at the Public Examinations in Music; and for adding Electric Engineering, Part I., to the subjects of the Higher Public Examination. These modifications have already received attention in our columns, and all that need be said of them now is that they are likely to conduce to the efficiency of University work. There are few other matters of a general character mentioned in the report that call for notice. The fact is mentioned that Professor Hudson Beare, B.A., who was trained in Adelaide, and who is now Professor of Engineering and Mechanical Technology in London, represented the colony at the tercentenary celebration of the University of Dublin; that the offer of a cadetship at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, still fails to attract candidates in South Australia; and that six graduates of other Universities were admitted *ad eundem gradum* at last commemoration as against seven in the previous year. Special reference is likewise introduced to the liberal gift of £1,000 made by Mr. Barr Smith for the purchase of books for the library. Steps, it is added, are being taken to give effect to the wishes of the donor, who has chosen an exceedingly acceptable and serviceable way of showing his interest in the University. The library at present falls far short of what it should be, and there is plenty of scope for the benevolence of other wealthy colonists who desire to add to the collection of books which it contains. The retirement of Mr. Tyas from the Registrarship after ten years' service is very properly alluded to in regretful terms, and it is noted that a resolution expressive of high appreciation of the way in which that gentleman performed his duties has received the assent of the Council.

It is to be regretted that the general record of the work of the year does not point to that amount of progress which the best friends of the institution could desire. In a few departments advance has been made, but the evidence afforded of the growing popularity of the University is not, in several respects, particu-

larly encouraging. The number of candidates for degrees admitted in December last was only twelve, as against twenty-one in the previous year, while the number of undergraduates in the various courses fell from 110 to 87, and of non-graduating students from 135 to 117. This reduction is serious, not only because of the testimony it affords that the advantages offered by the highest school of learning in the province are not proving increasingly attractive, but also because of the effect it must have upon the class-lists during the next two or three years. It is noteworthy that the decrease is contributed to by every one of the faculties with the exception of those of medicine and music. The former last year drew into its fold 13 graduating and 14 non-graduating students, as against 7 and 12 in 1891. Even this encouraging feature in the history of the twelvemonth is a little discounted by the fact that the number of budding professionals who passed their first, second, third, fourth, and fifth years was respectively only 7, 3, 4, 5, and 2, as against 7, 3, 7, 4, and 5 in the earlier period. In music 8 students as against 3 entered for the degree, while at the examinations 5 completed the first, and 1 the second year, as against 3 and 1 in 1891. There has, however, been a general falling off from 21 to 7 in the total number of undergraduates. In law the roll of persons studying for the degree of LL.B. has dwindled down from 24 to 14, and of non-graduating students who have been preparing for certificates to enable them to practise in the Supreme Court from 15 to 14. Only 2 young men as compared with 5 in the previous year commenced study for the degree, while of those in the actual process of graduating the one, two, and three years, students numbered 5, 1, and 2, as compared with 3, 3, and 8 in 1891. This check in the productive operations of what may be irreverently styled the lawyer manufacturing branch of the University is not altogether a thing to be deplored, but unfortunately a like story of decrease is told respecting the faculties of science and arts. The fact that 93 non-graduating students attended various lectures of the B.Sc. course may be regarded as fairly satisfactory, but the ambition to win a degree in science is evidently confined to a limited and diminishing circle. Only 3 entered upon the course, while 2 completed the first year's studies, 3 the second, and 4 the third. For 1891 the new students numbered 4 and 3; 6 and 5 respectively came out victorious at the examinations. For the arts course 3 only entered, as against 5 in the preceding year, and 8 undergraduates in all passed the tests set them, as against 9 in 1891. The number of non-graduating students remained stationary at 3.

These, it must be admitted, are insignificant totals, which tend to show that there is in the community very little call for a University so far as what for centuries was regarded at the principal seats of learning in the old country as pure University work is concerned. Happily, by widening the basis of its operations and adapting itself to the special circumstances of the colony — by "stooping to conquer," in short — the University of Adelaide has found a field in which it can do valuable service in promoting the cause of advanced education. We are certainly not prepared to endorse all its methods or to view the influence it wields through the carrying out of those methods as