The Register.

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The University Commencement.

The most conspicuous names on the programme of the University Commencement yesterday were Mr. C. W. Farr, as Vice-Chancellor, into an even closer association with the University, in which he has always taken so deep an interest. The degree is one which, as Dr. Farr remarked, is only bestowed upon men of high distinction in various walks of life, and it certainly confers reflected honour on the University itself that its Chancellor should have been singled out for this honour during his latest visit to the old country. There is no degree provided for in the letters patent of Adelaide University which exactly corresponds to that of Doctor of Civil Law, and it was therefore thought wise to confer the Doctor of Laws degree upon the candidate. A similar difficulty had to be met in 1889 in the admission of Mr. P. P. Eadie to the degree of Doctor of Science, and it was overcome in the same manner. Whether the course adopted is perfectly regular is a question for lawyers skilled in matters scholastic to determine. The other name to which we have referred—that of the late Judge Snow—came forward prominently on account of the remarkable success of his son, Mr. F. L. Snow, in being the first during a period of nine years to carry off the Snow Law Prize three times in succession, and thus gain the Snow Scholarship. The cheer which greeted the son of the illustrious Judge were certainly well deserved, and Mr. George Ash, M.P., whose multifarious legal and public duties have not prevented him from carrying off a Snow Prize also, was an equally popular candidate.

Professor Bennett's oration was in part a protest against the purely utilitarian and materialistic view of the functions of the teacher of science. "What dividends will it pay as a commercial venture?" is the question which the matter-of-fact man of affairs usually puts to himself when it is proposed to assist the development of any branch of science. The same attitude of mind is very frequently taken up not only regarding science, but also literature and art, and in fact everything which enthusiastic men are accustomed to value for its own sake. To some minds at first sight the judgment of science and art by cash results may seem reasonable enough. Yet it may safely be asserted that there is no more insidious enemy to the happiness of mankind than this same spirit of opposition to everything which has not an immediate money-making result. Money, rightly considered, is not an end, but only a means to an end. Man's efforts should be directed towards subsistence, happiness, and the advancement of his higher nature.