

or in natural science, to specialize in his own particular line, how can that object be furthered by forcing him to go through an extensive course of Greek as an essential to the obtaining of his degree? The question has clearly a very immediate application to the case of our own University at the present time, because the Senate of the sister University of Melbourne has refused to recognise our LL.B. degree largely on account of the absence of compulsory Greek from our curriculum. Whether it was a prudent course for Adelaide to take the initiative in an alteration of the law course may well be questioned. Though the standard maintained in our University is a high one, the reputation of our degrees cannot yet be said to have been sufficiently established to stand the risk of being clouded by any suspicion of want of genuineness in the courses of study, or of equality of test with those of the other Australian Universities. It is not unlikely, however, that the whole matter will before long come up for consideration not only here but in other parts of Australasia. Those who desire to see Greek made optional in Cambridge and Oxford were badly beaten in the late contest, and Professor Tucker prognosticates a still greater victory for the "Greeks." Whether he will prove a true prophet the future alone can show. The minority take special note of the fact that the death of Professor Freeman has removed from the arena one of the most active champions of the maintenance of the existing system, and claim that the whole controversy has disclosed much more dissatisfaction with Greek as a compulsory subject for all students than the generality of University dons previously imagined to exist. Sooner or later the question must be fought out in the colonies, and the incident of the non-recognition of the Adelaide LL.B. degree is not unlikely to bring it to the front. It is not surprising to find that Professor Tucker unreservedly supports the action of the Melbourne University, but we are bound to hear more of this matter. What attitude Adelaide would take in regard to any proposition for deposing Greek from the position now assigned it in the Arts course we cannot say, but it is quite certain that any material change that may be brought about should be the result of the joint determination of all the Universities in this part of the world.

The reputation of Australians for fair dealing with their Professors has been seriously challenged by Professor Jenks, who recently filled the Chair of Law at Melbourne; but it is satisfactory to note that Professor Tucker found that the misunderstandings occasioned by the writings of that gentleman were susceptible of easy removal. Of course it must always be remembered in connection with

the question of selecting University Professors that the choice between local and imported talent may be looked upon from two different points of view. It is the quality of his brain which, in the majority of instances, makes a Professor valuable or otherwise rather than the fame or standing of the University which he has attended or of the teachers in whose classes he has sat. There are no doubt very notable exceptions to every rule, and Professor Tucker is one of them himself. But proof is from time to time being afforded that no monetary consideration whatever will suffice to tempt the very highest grade of specialist to leave the stimulating surroundings of his friends

and the centres of scientific publication and seek his fortune in the Australian Colonies. The range of selection thus being limited to those who are willing to come, the practical question is whether the chance of securing the "able man" who is required may not be virtually as great in the colonies as in England. America has long ago found that in the vast majority of cases it is safest to depend on local resources, and Australia is not unlikely to recognise the necessity of proceeding more and more upon these lines. In saying this we do not in the slightest degree underrate the value of Professors who have had the benefit of a training such as the Universities of the Old World afford. We are merely guided by considerations of the necessity of adapting ourselves to the conditions of supply and demand.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA.

AN INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR TUCKER.

[By our Special Reporter.]

Professor Tucker, Professor of Classics in the Melbourne University, was a passenger by the *Orizaba*, which vessel arrived from London late on Tuesday night. Professor Tucker was Victoria's representative to the tercentenary celebrations of Trinity College, Dublin, to attend which he left Australia last March. He is of the new school—a smart, dashing young fellow, full of life and learning, amiable, and possessed of considerable discrimination and tact. He had been absent from England for ten years, so was pleased at the opportunity afforded of the Trinity College festivities to have a run through the Continent and England. He was on the Continent when the cholera scare started, and was much amused at some of the methods enforced by the Continental authorities. At one place all the passengers had to get out of the train, and, carrying their luggage, pass through a little gate. There were several officials, who sternly put these questions:—"What is your name? Where have you come from? Where are you going to? How old are you? What is your profession?" Not a word about one's health or any attempt at examination. Professor Tucker had the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters conferred upon him when at Dublin. During his travels the Professor was somewhat surprised to find that the people whom he met had a very good knowledge of Australia. The Professor, who is accompanied by his wife, continued his voyage to Melbourne by the *Orizaba*, and here is the result of our midnight chat:—

TERCENTENARY OF TRINITY COLLEGE.

"I was present at the Dublin Trinity College tercentenary celebrations as a representative of the Melbourne University," began the Professor, in reply to my first question. "Invitations had been issued to all reputable Universities and many other modern bodies to send representatives to take part in the festivities. The total number attending as guests or delegates was about 300, and among these were to be found the names of the most eminent men of every branch of science, art, letters, music, and the drama. Max Mueller and Vambury were there; also Martini, Sir Frederick Leighton, Henry Irving, Lord Kelvin, and others not less famous. The festivities were carried out in a style of great dignity and grandeur. The colonial representatives were well treated everywhere, and on presenting addresses they were received with great acclamation. There seemed to be a feeling that we were more closely connected with them than the representatives from some other parts."

THE OLD AND THE NEW UNIVERSITIES COMPARED.

"Yes; I have had many opportunities of noticing not only the material structure but the educational methods and the standards of various Universities, besides the opportunity of conferring with various eminent men in different departments of University work. Australia does not lose by the comparison. As far as material structure is concerned, the buildings and appliances of our colonial Universities struck me as comparing very favourably indeed with the majority of Universities other than the very leading such, for instance, as Oxford and Cambridge. In point of situation ours are far superior to those on the Continent. As for the standard of education, there can be no doubt that the Arts degree in Australia generally—certainly of Melbourne—is higher, the examinations being more severe, and represents really more general attainment than in degrees. The older Universities are beginning to recognise this. In the honour or specialist