

## THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

The more popular character which the University of Adelaide has assumed during the past few years is strikingly exemplified by the new departure taken with regard to the issue of the annual calendar. The demand for information respecting the public and other examinations among intending candidates and teachers has become so great that the University authorities have consulted the general convenience by publishing in pamphlet form the regulations, details of subjects, papers, and class lists of these examinations. The annual report and statement of accounts have also been bound up in the same way, and most of the remaining portions of the calendar will also be issued in detached form. All these several parts will in due course be brought together in a volume of uniform shape with the volumes of previous years. The separate issue of the pamphlet on the public examinations will be much appreciated, because whereas in past years intending candidates have had to buy the whole calendar in order to learn a few details upon perhaps only one special curriculum or subject, it will now be open to each one to secure the same amount of information at very much less cost. This is only one among many indications that the University of Adelaide may fairly be included among the most progressive institutions which South Australia possesses. Lord Bacon aptly compares the knowledge and erudition concentrated at such a centre of learning as a University to the water collected in "those springheads, conduits, cisterns, and pools which the industry of man hath framed and made." The great mistake committed in the earlier days of the Adelaide Institution was akin to the one sometimes made by unpractical officials in the drier areas of Australia, namely, that of building a costly dam or excavating a tank and forgetting to consider sufficiently the question of whether water could find its way into it. The ornate building on North-terrace has been very costly, close upon £45,000 from first to last, having been spent upon erecting and furnishing it. Time after time while the building was being put up did we protest in vain against the diversion of income which should have been expended in the promotion of sound learning to the purposes of adorning the rooms with most elaborate ceilings and fittings. Government and private subscriptions towards the Building Fund amounted to only £19,994, or very little more than one-half of the total sum of £38,493 spent on the structure itself, so that the remaining £18,500 had to be borrowed from the Endowment Funds. In point of fact, in 1882 the four students who commenced their undergraduate course had tesselated pavements to walk upon, but a totally inadequate staff of instructors to teach them what they went to learn. What wonder was it that many who were in search of a thorough University education sought it elsewhere?

A very different state of things now prevails. The ornate building, of course, still exists, and it still owes a small amount to the Endowment Funds; but last year, instead of four, thirty-four graduating students began their studies, and to these must be added a large number of others who are not set down as graduating students, but who, nevertheless,

entered the classes for the various science and arts courses. In all there were, we learn, under instruction ninety-three graduating and 187 non-graduating students, making a total of 280. In the medical classes there were forty-one students, in the art classes ten, and in those for science and for music thirteen each. The great majority of the non-graduating students were either in the arts or in the science school—the former claiming 63 while the latter had 119. From these figures it will be seen, reverting to Lord Bacon's simile, that we have at length got our tank fairly well filled with water. The question as regards the future is whether the supply will be kept up; and from present appearances there is good reason to believe not only that this will be the case, but that the inflow stream will be greatly augmented.

Practically the most profitable portion of the educational business carried on at the University is now that which lies outside of ordinary University operations. Thus, to take the most elementary work first, it may be noted that the fees for the preliminary examination last year amounted to £255, while the expenses were only £80. Surely, in view of this contrast, it would be well that the half-guinea fee for this primary test should be reduced. The two-guinea fee for the senior public examination, which brought in £225 as against an outlay of £34, ought unquestionably to be lowered. On the other hand, the courses of lectures which lead to the entrances to lucrative professions, such as the law, might in fairness be expected to support themselves. The expenses of the law lectures last year were £681, and the fees only came to £300. The medical fees are certainly very high even at present; but the expenses of the Medical School amount to no less than £2,636, while the receipts from fees were £1,176. The fees for evening classes came to £294, and the annual contribution to the same object from capital account and Government subsidy to £122, or £416 in all; while the expenses are set down as being only £143. Of course it must not be forgotten that the evening students have the advantage of receiving lectures from Professors whose salaries are paid out of the interest accruing on the magnificent endowments created for them by the benefactors of the University; but the discrepancy between income and expenditure suggests that too large a sum is taken from the funds of the evening classes for general purposes. The arts and science courses and the medical classes have the advantage of large endowments, but it is not surprising to find that even with these aids they are far from self-supporting. In the case of the School of Music the total expenses are only £626, while the fees amount to £300. In other words, although there is now no endowment, the Faculty of Music net only costs the University nothing, but yields a profit to it. There may be room for some reduction of the fees for examination in this department also. From year to year it is becoming more evident that practically the most important work accomplished by the University is in the direction of stimulating and directing the efforts of outside institutions, and the concession of a lower scale of fees would undoubtedly lead to the widening of this sphere of usefulness.