

There is a reflection of the spirit of the time and of the people in that aspect of University work to which we have referred. Even scholarship itself is turned, for the most part, into the narrow channel of material advantage. The University is now very largely a manufactory of professional men, whose higher training has particular reference to their personal views of the "main chance" in life. A young and energetic democracy, still in the struggling, money-making stage, the universal passion for physical well-being which

De Tocqueville reproached in the people of the United States is strong among us, and makes even the University minister to its cravings. The more general pursuit of learning for its own sake, for the intellectual breadth which it confers, for the grace and beauty which it adds to life, must perhaps wait for a time of less strenuous activity and greater leisure. In one respect we may congratulate ourselves that the University is in line with the most advanced institutions of its class. It has completely overcome all the sentimental objections and deep-rooted academical prejudices which once stood in the way of the higher education of women. "Sweet girl-graduates" are among its ordinary products. Last year two "bachelors" of science were contributed to the community by the gentler sex. Just a tenth of the medical students studying for degrees were ladies—that is, four in all. The male medical student, in the old country at any rate, has a rather unhealthy reputation for wildness, but the presence of ladies in the classes he attends at North-terrace must tend to produce a sobering effect. One of the fair undergraduates shows her zeal by studying at the same time for two degrees—bachelor of medicine and bachelor of science. Contrary to what might be expected, science appears to exercise over the feminine mind a charm which the Arts course lacks. Only one of seven in the latter is a female student, but Miss Obegple distinguished herself in her second year by taking the John Howard Clark scholarship. No less than four of the eighteen undergraduates studying for the degree of B. Sc. are ladies. But music is the most fashionable study for women at the University. Seven of the eleven undergraduates who listen to the lectures of Professor Ives are members of the fair sex. There are still those with an ineradicable prejudice against lady-doctors. The severest critic of the new developments of female education will hardly suggest, however, that to be musical is unwomanly. "If wise men and prophets are not out," says Milton, "music has a great power over the disposition and manners to soothe and make them gentle from rustic hardness and distempered passions." Of such influences men stand in infinitely greater need than women, but the lady-musician may be able to exercise them more effectually in her home if prepared by a University training to do something like justice to her art.

Dr. F. W. Pennfather, professor of laws at the Adelaide University, returned to South Australia by the steamer Polyanion on Thursday. The doctor received twelve months' leave of absence from the University Council in order that he might attend to private business in England, and while he was away he was engaged, amongst other things, in revising parts of Murray's Handbook to New Zealand. He has spent nearly the whole of his leave in England and has returned in excellent health. During his stay in the old country Dr. Pennfather met Professor Lamb, formerly at the Adelaide University, as a gathering of professors held at Cambridge. He took the opportunity of noting all the recent developments in University work in England, and these will, it is trusted, prove of service here. There appeared to be a feeling in University circles at home that colonial appointments were not sufficiently secure, the treatment accorded one of the professors at the Auckland University being quoted as an example. There is consequently a tendency among men of learning to avoid colonial offices. During his absence the doctor's duties have been performed by Mr. G. J. R. Murray, B.A., and Professor Pennfather will resume his position without delay.

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THE REV. DR. JEFFERIS.—On Friday afternoon the Secretary of the North Adelaide Congregational Church received a cable message from the Rev. James Jeffers, LL.D., who is now pastor of the Belgrave Congregational Church, Torquay, Devonshire, intimating his acceptance of the invitation extended to him by the deacons to take charge of the North Adelaide Church. The message ran thus:—"Heartily accept: leave April." Dr. Jeffers, who is about sixty years of age, is a native of Bristol, and was educated at the New College, St. John's Wood, London. After entering the ministry he was appointed to a pastorate at Saltaire, Yorkshire, and subsequently came to Adelaide. He began to preach in the Temperance Hall, North Adelaide, where his congregations became so large that it was necessary to provide a Church spacious enough to contain the crowds of people who every Sunday were anxious to hear the new minister. Accordingly the Church, which now stands in a commanding position in Brougham-place, was erected, and Mr. Jeffers, as he was then, occupied the pulpit until he left for Sydney, having officiated in Adelaide for eighteen years. While in this city he did good work also as a lecturer and as a writer for the Press. He was actively associated with Union College, from which sprang the University of Adelaide, and in some measure Sir W. W. Hughes's gift of £20,000 was intended as a compliment to Dr. Jeffers, who suggested that this sum should not be used by the College, but form the nucleus of a fund for the establishment of a University, a suggestion which it is well known was adopted. For some years the rev. gentleman laboured in Sydney, the scene of his pastoral duties being the Pitt-street Congregational Church. Ultimately he went back to England, where he has resided for the last few years. When the Rev. F. Hastings retired from the North Adelaide Congregational Church it was decided to ask Dr. Jeffers to take charge of it again, and his answer, which we announce to-day, will be hailed with delight by those who appreciated his intellectual powers, eloquence, and gentility.

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UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I am glad to have Professor Pennfather's disclaimer. If, however, he has been misunderstood he has but himself to blame, as in his remarks to your interviewer he states "that the insecurity of tenure in the colonies has been noted," and that "a combination has been formed to boycott colonial vacancies." He now states that "it is a purely New Zealand question." Had he said this at the interview I should not have troubled you or him.

I am, Sir, &c.,
JUSTINIAN.