

The year a balance on the right side of £449 has been converted into a deficiency of £57. This is not surprising to any one who notes the reasons, such as falling off in revenues from land and the unavoidable keeping back of interest due to the University by the E.S. and A.C. Bank during the time of suspension. On the whole, it seems plain that the finances of the institution are being watched with more care than they were at the time when we had to protest so frequently against the appropriation of endowment moneys for building purposes. The present state of the case is put quite plainly in the accounts now before us. The Government contributed £18,014 and private donors £1,890 to build the University, and the cost of the work was £38,424. In other words, the balance, amounting to £20,520, was improperly appropriated to this purpose from other moneys of the University which ought to have gone to the maintenance of the actual teaching work of the institution. However, as every one knows, it is of little use crying over spilt milk. The practical fact now to be noted is that the University is making good progress in many directions. With eighty-seven undergraduates and 123 non-graduating students, it was able to turn out last year seventeen full-fledged graduates, and to help largely in the studies of very many others. The Government subsidy on endowments, namely, £3,201, bore only a small proportion to the total income, and some of the departments are largely self-supporting. The fees in music, in fact, more than meet the expenditure.

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THE UNIVERSITY.

The annual report of the Council of the Adelaide University consists, as usual, of a bare summary of the actual results of work during the academical year. No comparisons are given by which the progress of the institution can be conveniently tested. There are, however, one or two points of general interest that arrest attention and deserve remark. It is of course well understood that the great majority of those who take advantage of the facilities afforded at the University for higher education do so without any intention of studying for degrees. Of the 210 students attending the lectures in the various courses last year only 57 were undergraduates. This involves no reflection on the value of the University as a means of educational advancement; on the contrary it may be taken as evidence of the broadness of its basis and the wise liberality of its arrangements. Some years ago a new departure was made in the establishment of evening classes, which give opportunities of culture in special branches to many who would otherwise be thrown altogether on their own resources. In the first term of 1893 these classes, mainly devoted to scientific teaching, were attended by 112 students. The number fell to 100 in the third term, but this is a common experience. Some of those who enter upon a course are sure to find it rather more difficult than they expected, and only the enthusiastic spirits persist in their attendance. For a large number of the non-graduating students the University is indebted to

the School of Mines and Industries. One of the most interesting features of the report is that which registers the results of what may be called the outside examinations. Most of these apply the examination test to the secondary education at our principal schools and colleges. It is still a matter of controversy how far examination is really a test of liberal culture. They may have a bad tendency in encouraging mere "cram," or, in other words, instruction for examination rather than education in the widest sense. The rivalry between competing schools undoubtedly involves some danger of this sort. But whatever the perils to be set against the advantages of the system, it will certainly continue so long as the common practice among parents is to apply to the results of secondary school training the rigid and not entirely satisfactory measure of University examinations.

The report brings again into prominence the tendency of our University to become rather a nursery for the professions than a seat of general culture and learning. This was perhaps to be expected in a utilitarian community, but it is none the less regrettable. In the evidence he gave many years ago before a Royal Commission Mr. Gladstone declared that the "main end of education is to make the human mind a strong, supple, effective, available instrument for whatever purposes it may require to be applied to." The greater number of our University students fit this to their own case in a sense much more limited than was meant by Mr. Gladstone. Their aim is to graduate as doctors or lawyers, the purpose of their education to help them on in the material concerns of life, and they use the University to provide them with their professional outfit. It is not by devoting itself chiefly to such work that a University best fulfils the true ends of its existence. To quote Mr. Gladstone again, a University was never intended to be a mere factory to turn out professional men, equipped only with their special professional culture. It is a little discouraging to observe that the Arts course at North-terrace is still comparatively neglected. The undergraduates studying for the degree of B.A. last year numbered only seven. But there were no less than 40 undergraduates studying for the M.B. degree in the Faculty of Medicine. Twelve were in training for the LL.B. degree, and besides these 17 non-graduating students were preparing for certificates to enable them to practice in the Supreme Court. Already we hear a great deal about the overcrowding of the professions. What is to be done to provide for all the budding doctors and lawyers in our midst is a mystery that only time can solve. The preference for medicine is especially marked, and it may perhaps be regarded as a sign of the superior attractions of a profession animated by a scientific and progressive spirit, and generally more in line with the modern movement than the more conservative business of the law. Science, pursued even for its own sake, would seem to be winning in the race against a classical and literary education. The science students for a degree mustered last year 18 as against 7 in the Faculty of Arts. At the commencement in December 17 degrees altogether were conferred, of which 6 were M.B. and Ch.B., and an equal number B.Sc. Two students in the Arts course graduated as bachelors, and two as masters, while one gentleman studying for the law attained the dignity of LL.B.