

✓ Register 2/2/94.

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR.—We have received from Mr. Hodge, the very courteous and hard-working Registrar of the University, the Calendar for the year 1894. The volume is slightly smaller than last year, but no sacrifice has been made of necessary information. It is noteworthy that more than usual expedition has been shown in the publication of the volume, it having been issued earlier in the year than any of its predecessors, notwithstanding that a delay occurred through having to incorporate the new University scholarship regulations. As before, the printing has been done by Messrs. W. K. Thomas & Co. at the Register Office.

## The Register.

ADELAIDE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1894.

### THE UNIVERSITY CALENDAR.

Teachers and scholars of the higher schools will be grateful to the Council and Registrar of the University for issuing the calendar for the current year almost simultaneously with the opening of these schools. Such a thing, we believe, has never been done before, and if the early production of the book is to be taken as an earnest of similar businesslike promptitude in the year's work it will be hailed with still greater satisfaction. To the young people who are ambitious of distinguishing themselves at the examinations of this year the really important part of the information supplied in the calendar is neither historical nor financial. The portions most eagerly scanned by them are those which give the details of the subjects of examinations to be held during the year, and in this connection it is the intention of the University authorities, as we have already intimated, to make a very important new departure affecting principally the study of languages. In the departments of Latin, Greek, French, and German for the Junior Public Examination to be held next November the candidates will be expected to translate unseen passages of simple narrative prose, and to write out composition exercises, including simple sentences, to test their knowledge of grammar and the more common constructions of syntax. But, in order that the examination under these conditions may not become too severe, it is provided that, for both translation and composition, the use of the dictionary will be allowed. For the Senior Examination the textbook system has been entirely abandoned so far as French and German are concerned. But in Latin and Greek short books of Livy and Plato are prescribed. Throughout it is the intention of the examiner to set unseen passages as in the junior tests; but no dictionaries will be allowed in this examination, the only assistance to the candidates being that unusual words and phrases will be supplied to them. The plan of introducing unseen translation into the examination work of the University has already been fully tried in the Arts Course, and it has been found to supply a much clearer insight into the real proficiency of the candidate than the old fashion of relying entirely upon a mere literal knowledge of one or two set textbooks, which could on occasion be effectually "crammed" by those inclined to shirk their work.

Indeed, as a matter of fact some candidates have been known to learn a translation off by rote, and to reproduce the particular passage set in the examination without understanding the meaning of the context at all. The preparation for examinations, both inside and outside of the University, will now have to be done on the principle that a real knowledge of the language prescribed will be essential to a pass. To teach the young idea how to shoot may be the duty of the school master or mistress, but the direction in which that shooting has to be performed is indicated by the authorities of the University, and it is very satisfactory to find that they are setting their faces against the old and mischievous practice of "cram."

The calendar is slightly smaller this year on account of the omission of the long list of bygone undergraduates, or rather matriculated students. As the University adds years to its age it becomes impracticable to keep up the system of perpetuating yearly the names of every boy or girl who has gained the needful passes at the senior examination to entitle him or her to matriculate. There are, indeed, plenty of undergraduates and of non-graduating students. In the Arts Course, for instance, no less than fifty-eight non-graduating students have been attending various courses of lectures. But of students actually following up the curriculum for the degree of Bachelor of Arts there were only seven last year. This means that, for the three years over which the course extends, there have been only a couple of graduating students in each set of classes. It is stated, in fact, that two completed the year's work in each group, and from the pass-lists it would appear that the whole of them were successful. From this fact outsiders will be apt to gather the impres-

sion that the standard of examination is not very high; but there is of course another possible explanation, namely, that all the students were thoroughly in earnest and up to their work. Except as to the Arts Course the University is becoming more successful from year to year in widening the sphere of its usefulness. For example, it is recorded that arrangements have been made for giving instruction to students following up the curriculum prescribed by the Pharmaceutical Board. Perhaps it might be possible in a similar manner to enlist the services of the University in the teaching of agricultural students. There is great waste in duplicating such classes as those for elementary and practical chemistry, more especially when separate laboratories have to be provided for the several institutions.

For the Arts Course doubtless something will be done through the agency of the nine new day and evening scholarships which are to be awarded annually; but there would be ample scope for the labours of a Committee of Enquiry to investigate the causes which have for so many years deterred students from entering the purely educational as distinguished from the professional courses at the University. The institution, however, is growing in many ways, and its expenditure, principally met by income from endowments and fees, now amounts to some £12,000. From the accounts, which, by-the-way, are presented with unwonted clearness and fulness this year, we learn that during