

REGISTER, FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1882.

PHYSIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY.—The commencement of lectures at the Adelaide University this week is marked by the inauguration of a series, which will be delivered on "Human Physiology" by Dr. Stirling, the recently appointed lecturer upon this most important subject. The first of these lectures was given on Thursday, March 23, and as there were as many as fifty-one students present, it is evident that the new branch of study bids fair to be successful. Among those present were not only regular University students, but several from the Training School, as also schoolmasters, and others—both sexes being well represented. Care has been taken to fix the fees, especially in the case of those who are not studying for any special degree, as low as possible, so that there need be no reason why the class should not considerably increase as the year advances. The lecturer has decided that the two essential parts of the practical work involved in the study of physiology—namely, the dissection of animal organs, such as those of the sheep and rabbit, and also the microscopic examination of tissues—shall be specially attended to, and mere book work will not be solely depended upon. Efforts will be made also to render the lectures as much as possible immediately applicable to the purposes of every-day life. Much of the infant mortality which now prevails to such an alarming extent could be prevented did parents but know even a modicum of physiology, and the dissemination of such knowledge as might tend to ameliorate the present state of things will be of great value independently of merely scientific interests. At present, the course is made more elementary than it will afterwards become, seeing that the students who will a year or two hence attend the lectures will be those preparing for the second examination for the degree of Bachelor of Science. But the most important aspect in which the inauguration of the physiological lectures is to be regarded is their bearing on the future medical school, which it is the intention of the University Council in time to establish. When students in South Australia can receive instruction from a gentleman such as the present lecturer, who has before this been entrusted with the task of instructing the students attending one of the large London hospitals, there seems to be no reason in the world why those who are qualifying themselves for the medical profession should not receive at any rate a certain proportion of their training within the colony. At present the establishment of physiological lectures before any attempt has been made to teach anatomy is rather an anomaly, as the latter study should be a preparation for the former. When, however, a course of anatomy has been inaugurated, and the facilities for medical study afforded by the Adelaide Hospital have been taken advantage of—and the building, it may be noticed, is in very convenient proximity to the University—the present modest beginning will have developed into a complete medical school. The Council of the University is to be congratulated upon the evidence afforded by the number of students who have entered for the physiological course that its determination to introduce this new branch of study is approved by the public.

The Advertiser

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1882.

THE ceremonial which will take place this afternoon in connection with the opening of the new buildings of the University of Adelaide is one which will be unique in its kind. The ornate and costly edifice, which is destined to be the seat of the highest school of learning in the colony, is to be declared opened by Her Majesty's representative. The council, the senate, and the students are invited to assemble, and with all proper academic pomp to march in procession from the room that is to form the museum up the grand staircase to the library. The arrangements, as represented on a lithograph plan with which we have been furnished, show that the councillors will take their place on the dais at the end of the hall; along one side will be ranged the members of the senate in their college costumes; opposite to them will be placed the invited guests; while the general public, as represented by the friends of the senators, will occupy the remainder of the hall. It is to be regretted that the noble room, in spite of its beauty and its size, will not allow of any great number of the citizens of Adelaide being invited. The sitting accommodation is limited, and every inch of space has been utilised. We venture to suggest, however, that as soon as the buildings are thoroughly furnished a day should be set apart when those who wish it may have an opportunity of inspecting the premises which have been provided in so large a measure out of the public purse. It is to be hoped also that when the august assemblage that will throng the library this afternoon sees the small number of volumes that adorn the shelves, that those who possess rare editions of standard works will be impelled to do as the chancellor has done, and enrich the library by timely and valuable donations.

It is gratifying to note that during the day's proceedings academic distinctions are to be conferred on several young men who have completed their course of study for the B. A. and B. Sc. degrees. It would be more pleasing to all concerned if the number had been greater, but a glance at the calendar will convince every reader that the University authorities have made three degrees well worth having. They have resisted the temptation to attract students by lowering the standard of their examinations. Many have found fault with them for not popularising the University as they might have done; but while it is desirable to do as much as possible to extend the