

REGISTER, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1882.

stated why the award was delayed; but from the retiring Registrar it seems hopeless to look for a report which shall deal fairly with the public and supply an intelligible account of what is being done by the University authorities.

We learn that the University building is not yet completed, although it has been in use since March last. Why the delay has arisen we are left to conjecture. The only information graciously vouchsafed is that "it is confidently expected that full possession of the building will be received before the beginning of the academical year in March next." Some of the leases of the University lands appear to have given trouble. The holder of a large quantity of the Tatiara land surrendered his leases, but the land appears to have been relet on favourable terms. There are very heavy arrears of rents, amounting to £2,841, due for the Wandearah lands, and it has been resolved to remit a portion of the arrears, and to reduce the future rentals to one-half the present rates. The income in 1881 was nearly £1,800 below that of the previous year. The falling-off was due in part to the non-payment of some of the rents, and in part to the diminished income from the endowments. Sir W. W. Hughes' £20,000 was paid during the year, and it appears to have been yielding only 4 per cent. Both Sir Thomas Elder and Sir W. W. Hughes have consented to allow their endowments to be invested on first mortgages or in the purchase of freeholds in South Australia; but as Parliamentary sanction is required to these alterations in the deeds of gift the Council have been placed in a difficulty. The usual balance-sheet accompanies the report, and for the first time there is also annexed a statement "showing the actual position of the University with respect to its property, funds, and liabilities to the close of the year 1881." This statement, which deserves a more extended notice than we can give it just now, bears out what we have before frequently remarked—that the annual balance-sheets do not furnish an exact record of the University finances. In other words no one could, from these annual statements, arrive at the results indicated in the return showing the financial position of the institution at the end of last month. We observe that the building and gas fittings have already cost £30,431, towards which private donations have been received amounting only to £1,640. That a far better result would have been secured if the Council had taken the public more into their confidence does not admit

of doubt. No effort has been made to secure the sympathy of the public, and the effect of this mistaken policy is seen in the miserably scanty support accorded to the University.

REGISTER, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1882.

THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—The *Register* has frequently pointed out that the province of a modern university ought to be to teach, to educate, to testify, and not merely to set forth a curriculum, and to distribute funds. It has also shown that the above University is deficient in the most important of those requirements, and not very worthy of approbation in the others. Now, as Commemoration Day will be celebrated this year in the new building on North-terrace, it appears an appropriate time to ask the question—What hope is there for the future? Not much, we would answer, when the present temper and constitution of the Council is considered, and it will be a tedious process to wait for an infusion of young blood from the Senate. It is, however, only right that the Council should distinctly understand where the onus lies, and that much good cannot be effected until, like Melbourne University, it secures the sympathy of the public.

I am, Sir, &c.,

PROGRESS.

Norwood, February 2.

The Register.

ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, FEB. 4, 1882.

THE UNIVERSITY FINANCES.

We mentioned in our former article on the report of the Council of the University of Adelaide for 1881 that there was appended to it a statement showing the actual financial position on December 31, 1881. We are somewhat at a loss to understand upon what principle that statement, which will be found in another column, has been prepared. We publish it in full because, although by itself it does not furnish a complete view of the financial transactions from the first, it enables us to check the accounts which have been published from year to year, and from the two sources, by dint of some little research, we are able to get a pretty accurate view of the subject. It is of vital importance to the present and the future wellbeing of the University that the real state of the finances should be understood, and we have therefore thought it desirable to give the result of our investigations. In quoting figures we shall leave out the shillings and pence. In the summary mentioned above an item appears on the debtor side, "Income (less annual charges), £15,295." On