

# The Advertiser

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1883.

THE report of the Adelaide University for the year 1882 has just been issued as an appendix to the calendar. As usual this report is characterised by an extreme and certainly a needless brevity. It is a bare record of hard facts, and the reader is in every case left to draw his own inferences from them. It says a good deal, but it leaves very much unsaid, and that might have been said. In spite, however, of its meagre character the report is possessed of much interest. Compared with the reports of previous years it shows a marked progress in the history and the working of the University. While our chief educational institution was located in inconvenient hired chambers among the lawyers' offices of Victoria-square, with incomplete appliances, with no proper laboratory or library, it was hardly to be expected that its progress would be very rapid. About the beginning of last year complete possession of the new University was obtained, and on April 5 the Governor attended the annual commencement and declared the building formally opened. This was a great step, and the event was further celebrated by a sumptuous literary and scientific conversazione given by the present chancellor, then vice-chancellor, when the public of Adelaide had a further opportunity of seeing the noble premises which have been erected for the accommodation of the University.

Two noteworthy additions or changes have been made in the programme of University studies, whose influence for the benefit of the community cannot be exaggerated. The one is the establishment of what is called the "junior" examination, and the other is the completion of the preliminary arrangements for the formation of a faculty of law. For some years it has been the custom of the University to hold what was called a "primary examination." The pupils of our various private and public schools were invited to send up their candidates for examination, and the possession of the consequent certificate was the reward for passing this test successfully. A goodly number of young people, both male and female, were accustomed to avail themselves of this opportunity, but it was evident that the examination was not popular with all the schools. The reason of this was that it was no part of a University course. A student who had obtained the "primary" certificate was no further advanced than one who had not got it, if he wished to pursue his studies. Much of the same ground had to be gone over again when he came up for the matriculation examination. According to the new

regulations the primary examination is abolished, and a new one called the "junior examination" is substituted for it. This new examination and the matriculation cover much of the same ground, and the student who successfully passes the

"junior" is exempted from having to pass a second time in certain subjects which are compulsory in each case. The junior examination is consequently the first rung in the ladder of academic advancement. It is behind of prematriculation which makes the real matriculation easier, and at the same time more thorough—easier because the student has fewer subjects to occupy his attention when entering the gateway of University graduation; more thorough because the non-compulsory subjects out of which the candidate is bound to make his selection are treated more exhaustively. The beneficial effects of the change are seen in the fact that in the year 1882 "93 candidates, of whom 26 were girls, entered themselves," against "55 candidates, of whom 14 were girls," in 1881. In 1882, 56, of whom 16 were girls, passed; while in 1881, 35, of whom 9 were girls, passed. The matriculation examination shows a falling off in numbers, but a decided improvement in the percentage of passes, the deficiency in numbers being accounted for by the fact that candidates evidently preferred to make two steps instead of one by entering for each examination in turn.

The establishment of a law faculty is now complete as far as the regulations are concerned. The two lectureships have not yet been filled up, but the appointments will be made in a few days. It is to be hoped that the usefulness of the University will be largely extended by this new departure, while the efficiency and reputation of the profession will be increased. Law students have the opportunity afforded them of following either of two courses of study, the one embracing simply the more practically useful subjects which every lawyer ought to know, and the other adding thereto certain more scholarly, and as they have been called, "ornamental" subjects. The degree of LL.B. will only be given to those who enter for and pass their examinations in the double course. The list of students studying for the ordinary degrees is still small, but this is not a matter of surprise. For many years the influence of our University will be chiefly seen in raising the standard of education throughout the colony. A taste has to be created, and that is the work of time. When we take into account the comparative smallness of Adelaide as against Melbourne, and the age of our University, the record of progress up to this time has been quite as satisfactory as the sister colony. The growth of a