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Register Dec 9 1882

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY.—At a meeting of the Senate of the University on Wednesday, December 6, Dr. W. Gosse (the Warden) stated, in reply to various enquiries, that Dr. Short is still Chancellor of the University, and that, of course, the office is not vacant. He does not know of any proceedings having been taken in any shape or way to either ask the present Chancellor to resign or to secure any one else to take his place. The question has not been mooted in the Council during his presence at any of the meetings.

THE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE.—A high compliment has been paid to Mr. E. E. Morris, M.A., in that he has been elected by the Council of the University of Adelaide Professor of English Literature and by the Council of the University of Melbourne Professor of Modern Languages and Literature. As Mr. Morris was a candidate for the Adelaide appointment he is of course bound to the University here if the Council choose to call upon him to carry out his engagement. Whether they will do so will, we presume, depend upon Mr. Morris's own feeling in the matter. His conduct throughout has evidently been perfectly honourable, as he did not even apply for the situation to which he has been elected in Melbourne. If he is desirous of remaining in the sister colony it would certainly be bad policy to compel him to come to South Australia.

UNIVERSITY SENATE.—A meeting of the Senate of the Adelaide University was held on Wednesday, December 6, Dr. W. Gosse (Warden) presiding over a large attendance of members. Sir Henry Ayers, Mr. W. Everard, Mr. W. A. E. West-Erskine, M.A., Mr. J. W. Bakewell, M.A., and Mr C. Todd, C.M.G., were elected members of the Council. Mr. J. W. Smith, LL.D., brought forward three resolutions, all of which were negatived after animated discussions. The first affirmed the undesirability of female candidates having the option, not allowed to male candidates, of substituting French for Latin in the matriculation examinations; the second, the wisdom of having separate papers on arithmetic and algebra; and the third, that the matriculation examinations in Euclid should be confined to the substance of the author without requiring a knowledge of any deductions not contained in the books of Euclid in which the candidate is examined. Dr. Smith had a fourth resolution on the paper, with the purpose of allowing members of the Senate absent from meetings at which elections take place to vote by means of voting-papers. Before he could move it, however, the attendants had decreased so greatly that a quorum could not be made up, and so the motion lapsed.

The Advertiser

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1882.

THE senate of the Adelaide University met on Wednesday last to elect five new members to the council and to consider four motions of Dr. Smith, dealing with proposed changes in the subjects of the matriculation examination. The whole character of this examination was changed about a year ago, owing to the loud complaints made by the public and the schools as to its inefficiency as a test of thorough school work and the inequalities of its standards in the respective subjects. According to the old system there were two examinations—an elementary or "primary" examination, intended to

afford a criterion of the efficiency of the public schools under the Department of Education; and a higher or matriculation examination designed more exclusively as a test for the work of the higher schools and colleges, and also as the entrance qualification for matriculation or enrolment as a student of the University. The latter was regarded as qualifying the student to enter for any of the general or "arts" courses, or to take up the special professional courses of engineering, science, or medicine. The scheme under which the examination just now concluded was held was adopted at a meeting of the council at the beginning of this year, and the late examination was therefore the first under the new regulations. Under the old system every candidate was required to satisfy the examiners in five subjects—Latin, mathematics, English language, English history, and geography, and five other subjects were set down as optional. Under the new regulations the old "primary" examination is done away with, and the "junior," which is nearly its equivalent as to intention and acquirements, is embodied in the matriculation, every candidate being required to pass in the junior papers before attempting the matriculation. The difficulty has also been augmented by the addition of extra subjects. Under the old scheme a candidate could pass without any extra subjects, provided he got through the five compulsory. Now he has to pass not only in one more compulsory subject but has to take two extra. It will also be seen that the subjects for this examination, besides being made more numerous have been rendered more difficult and more stringent in their requirements. With reference to the examination just concluded it is urged that the papers set for the junior examination were far too difficult for an examination conducted with the view mentioned above. This opinion is upheld by the letters of several correspondents that have recently appeared in our columns. Not only were the papers, it is thought, too difficult, but in most cases too long. Some of them could hardly be got through in the time allowed, by men of mature age, who had the subjects at their fingers' ends, and the unreasonableness of setting them so long for youths fresh from school and with their thoughts sure to be disturbed by the impressiveness and importance of such an examination is very apparent.

Very considerable dissatisfaction is expressed by the teachers of the leading schools in reference to the papers set