

16/2/97
THE UNIVERSITY IN 1896.

Register

16/2

Bacon compared a University to a reservoir, in which learning, like water, is conserved, in order that it may be distributed in all directions through suitable channels and may be made to fructify and beautify the land to which it is conducted. The original meaning of the word *universitas* indicates that the learning accumulated in such an institution was not intended to benefit merely the select few, but that the full object aimed at was to offer advantages to all kinds and conditions of men, and to afford a new impetus to every trade and profession, whether their work might be of the utilitarian or of the more ornamental character. No one can peruse the annual report of the University of Adelaide embodied in the full "Calendar for 1896" which has just reached us and contrast it with the reports issued some fourteen or fifteen years ago without noticing how rapidly the area over which the benefits of the institution are spread has been widened. Although originally provision was made for little else than instruction in literature, ancient and modern, and in natural science, the various classes now include students who are preparing themselves for the work of life in matters having a very direct bearing on the material welfare of the community as a whole. The latest example of this is to be found in the mutually advantageous relations which have been established between the University and the Board of Pharmacy. Eleven students who desire to qualify themselves as dispensing chemists attended during last year the class in *Materia medica* in order that they might present themselves at the professional or intermediate examination prescribed by the Board. In the same way ninety-two pupils of the School of Mines became members of the classes in chemistry and other scientific subjects, and seven teachers under

the Education Department were also in attendance at the classrooms. In all, there were 320 students, of whom 105 were undergraduates, the remainder being classified as non-graduating students.

The Medical School showed steady and substantial progress until it was so ruthlessly paralyzed by the action of the Government in destroying the opportunities for effective study at the Hospital. Last year there were forty-eight medical students in the regular course for the degree of M. B. ; but nothing like this number can be ex-

pected during the current year. Not only have the fourth and fifth year *alumni*, without a single exception, taken their departure, but several of those who were not so advanced in their course have made a move to other Universities in order to secure the advantage of continuous training at the one institution during the most valuable portion of their period of study. Degrees in arts and in science are not by any means so much sought after as those in medicine, the reason no doubt being that they are not of any direct professional value, as is the case with that degree which carries with it a licence to practise medicine. Seventeen were studying for the degree of Bachelor of Arts and the same number for that of Bachelor of Science. But, again, it should be mentioned that there were forty-four non-graduating students in arts classes, and no less than 161 in those devoted to science. Only ten undergraduates were engaged in the study of law, while eleven candidates were in training for the Mus. Bac. degree. The public examinations in music have already received special notice in our columns, and we need not again refer to them. The success of the University in this more ornamental branch of learning ought not in any degree to divert attention from the ideal of the *Universitas*, as regards the following up of studies having reference to practical matters. Why should not the Institute of Surveyors, as well as the Board of Pharmacy, establish a relationship with our highest seat of learning? Why should not the Agricultural College make at least the same kind of use of the classes of that institution as has been made by the School of Mines?

The income of the University for last year was £11,957, and the expenditure less than that sum by £685. This statement of the position of the finances takes no note of the special accounts opened for the University extension lectures and for the Barr-Smith Library, but it includes the receipts from fees, which show an increase. The

Endowment Fund, which for some time had remained stationary, received an accession of £400 during the year for the establishment of the medical scholarship in memory of the late Dr. J. Davies-Thomas, so that it now stands at £65,480. We pointed out last year the great difficulty that was evidently found in the way of securing safe investments for the moneys forming portions of this fund, and referred, in illustration, to