

In this aspect of the case the high-flown oratory of Mr. Lyons and Mr. Wadey on Friday was very much beside the mark. To talk of the "vindictive feeling and action of the medical profession" is arrant nonsense. The Board, representing the Government, have no reason to expect any concessions from the Association, and if they imagined that the profession which has been practically "banished" from the Hospital through resolutely upholding what it conceived to be the interests of that establishment would calmly suffer Professor Watson to make terms with the other side without warning him that this would be regarded as an unfriendly act they must have very original notions of *esprit de corps*.

Whether the Professor is to be complimented upon his treatment of the Board is quite another matter. It is evident that he gave the impression that he would cheerfully consent to be appointed "Honorary Consulting Surgeon." As he explains the position his idea was that a title which had fallen into disuse should be conferred upon him, and that his duties would be comparatively nominal. In his abounding innocence it seems never to have occurred to him that by thus identifying himself with the Medical Staff of the Hospital, and helping even in name to assure the public that that institution, despite the attitude forced upon the late honorary officers, was thoroughly well manned, he would be acting adversely towards those with

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whom he had so far been in perfect sympathy. In what way the information was conveyed to him that the acceptance of the distinction granted him by resolution of the Board would meet with "the most marked disapproval" of his professional brethren, we have no means of knowing. What we are assured is that an utterly garbled and misleading version of the communication made to him by the Association has appeared in print; but, after all, that is not material to the issue. We have his own word for it that he has been induced by the repre-

sentations made to him to withdraw his assent to be nominated Honorary Consulting Surgeon, and undoubtedly his vacillation has placed the Board in rather a false position. A little consideration should have convinced him that the Association could not view with unconcern his assumption of an office which made him a member of the Honorary Staff, seeing that by so doing he indirectly reflected upon those who had found it impossible to retain their connec-

tion with that staff. It is only fair to add that even those who have most cause to feel mortified at the Professor's action will be exceedingly lenient in their judgment of him. Certain it is that no thought of personal advantage or regard for personal dignity weighed with him in the course he has taken. What he had in view was the cause of the Medical School and the interests of its pupils, which are known to be very near his heart. It is not easy to understand how either would have benefited by his acceptance of the proffered title, seeing that he has all along had access to the Hospital; but that his aim was mainly to serve them cannot be doubted.

What the future of the Medical School is to be is a question which still trembles in the balance. Every day the position of the institution becomes more critical. The present staff of lecturers are unable to give clinical instruction, and the value of the degrees which may be secured under the present state of affairs is being imperilled. It is no secret that several of the students contemplate migrating to Sydney or Melbourne to continue their course, and that some who are desirous of entering upon their medical studies in the University are indisposed to do so while the present unsatisfactory condition of things continues. At the meeting of the Hospital Board on Friday it was decided to adopt the suggestion of the Council of the University that a conference upon the subject should be held, and possibly some way out of the existing difficulty will be found. Judging by the result of past negotiations the prospect of this is not bright, but it is an encouraging fact that both parties are evidently exceedingly anxious to bring the present deadlock to a close. Should this prove to be impracticable with the aid of the Adelaide Hospital authorities it is to be hoped that the proposal which has been seriously made in some influential quarters to establish a private hospital which will be open to the whole of the medical profession will assume definite shape. This

is too large a question to discuss at length now, but the advantages of such an institution, not merely as a means of tiding over the existing trouble, which it is to be hoped will only prove temporary, but as a permanent addition to the charitable foundations of the colony, are too obvious to require enforcement. As it is understood that a building is obtainable which can at small expense be adapted for the accommodation of patients, the cost of bringing an hospital into working order need not be great. In any event it is not to be borne that the Medical School, which has attained so important a position in the community, should be abandoned or permitted to fall into a state of inefficiency.