

temporary. That this is a very optimistic view of the situation cannot be questioned, but every one must hope that it will be realized. Meanwhile Professor Watson, who fills the Chair of Anatomy, and whose knowledge of the human body is admittedly second to that of no one in this part of the world, has as the result of an intimate acquaintance with the inner working of the Hospital arrived at the conclusion that as a seminary for the instruction of young medical men the institution as at present conducted is one of the worst places that could be selected. The fact that the learned Professor has been dismissed for speaking out on the subject, in what he considers to be the true interests of the public, of the students, and of the patients, so far from discrediting his evidence on this all-important subject, really under the circumstances materially enhances its value.

In reality the University Senate, so far as the business on its agenda-paper for to-day is concerned, does not trouble itself with this aspect of the question. The principal fact to which its attention is to be drawn is that, as the course for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine is at present arranged, the third year is overloaded with work, some of which might with advantage be transferred to the second and fourth years. Thus the third-year students are in future to be allowed to confine their studies more particularly to anatomy dissections and demonstrations of surgical anatomy, but at the same time it is stipulated that each student must have already passed in materia medica and therapeutics during his second year. Consequent upon these modifications he will be allowed to postpone his studies in surgery, clinical surgery, and pathology to the fourth and fifth years. Incidentally this arrangement will no doubt have the advantage during the existing unsatisfactory *régime* of enabling students during the first three years of their course to get through those parts of their work which have no direct relation to the Hospital, and

then to flit away to Sydney, Melbourne, or some other city which is not cursed with a hospital dispute in order to complete the business of qualifying for their degrees. If, however, a medical undergraduate remains in Adelaide he must, during his fourth and fifth years, hold the offices of Dresser and Surgical and Medical Clerk during six

months out of each of the twelve-monthly periods. The fifth-year alumni are in future to have a special course of lectures and demonstrations in the principles and practice of medicine and surgery. It was at first provided that they should attend at least twenty cases of midwifery; but the difficulties in the way of securing even this amount of experience were found to be so great in a city like Adelaide that the authorities had to be content with allowing a student to qualify after attending ten cases. This arrangement, however, was made terminable in 1897. The difficulties still continue, and we are sorry to say that, through the constant attempts to import matters of prejudice into everything connected with hospital practice in South Australia they show no present promise of abating. It is therefore proposed to strike out the part of the clause making the concession terminable, and to allow ten cases to satisfy requirements until further notice. This contemplated action will doubtless in some quarters raise once more the question of whether the formation of a Medical School in Adelaide was not premature; but we are convinced that if that department of the University had only received fairplay it would have been in a position by this time to turn out men fully qualified in every branch of medical work, whose presence as practitioners in their own land would have materially assisted in carrying relief, at reasonable rates, to the suffering poor throughout the whole land. This, however, is exactly what the present so-called democratic Ministry are strenuously fighting against, and unfortunately with too much success.

The various public examinations, including the Preliminary, the Junior, and the Senior, will be materially modified if the proposed new regulations be approved to-day by the Senate. It is intended that in future reading shall be omitted from the "Preliminary" subjects. Those who object strongly to the disagreeable Cockney twang in speaking—miscalled colonial—will no doubt protest against eliminating the spoken word entirely

from the programme, but as a matter of practice it is generally found that *viva voce* work, like reading aloud, is rather a test of nerve than of knowledge or of correct pronunciation. Teachers will welcome the announcement that schedules of the work expected for the Prelim. will in future be published at least a year before the date