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some of the medical men who have not long finished their student course in Adelaide to be fully competent, but contend that they are qualified to undertake the duties of medical supervision. We are not prepared to go so far as this; but we welcome the yearly additions to the ranks of the locally trained medical men as the best guarantee that in the future the professional services of duly qualified practitioners will be available at reasonable fees, such as may be within the means of the poor as well as of the rich.

The sudden withdrawal of the Government grant to the Medical School will most assuredly, if persisted in, prove chiefly injurious to the more indigent classes of the community. This view of the matter is forcibly set forth in the memorandum already referred to, in which it is said that the proposed step "will imperil the efficiency of—if not altogether close—the Medical School, or cause it to be maintained by raising the fees to an extent which must be a burden, if not prohibitive, to the poorer students." There are some young men now studying for the degree who find it exceedingly difficult to pay the present high charges, being, in fact, like Chaucer's "Poor Student," who "had but litel gold in coffre"; and if there is to be any material increase such as the Government action, even if it has no worse effect, will render inevitable, the result must be to limit the advantages of the course to the sons of persons with money. This will obviously involve the creation among medical men of a semi-monopoly, and that in time will lead to an increase in the rates of fees for attendance. Any Government actuated by genuine democratic principles, recognising as it needs must, the value to the community of the services of skilled and well-qualified medical men, obtainable at moderate cost, should deem it to be a duty to encourage rather than discountenance the training of studious but poor aspirants for medical distinctions.

From the results of examinations published by us last Saturday it will have been noticed that this year no fewer than ten medical students have passed for their first year, nine for their second, and seven for their third. It need not be imagined, however, that there is any imminent danger of a glut of skilled practitioners. As a matter of fact the list for the fifth year includes the name of only one student, who completes a distinguished University career by taking a first-class

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and winning the Everard Scholarship. Certainly the record is more comprehensive for the fourth year, comprising as it does two firsts and three seconds, but, on the whole, the supply of medical men is not at all likely, for a long time to come, to exceed the demand. The local school is undoubtedly fulfilling a most useful purpose and no one can be more fully aware of this fact than the present Minister of Education, who himself gained high honours as a student in medicine. The Government grant, which was in 1893 reduced from £800 to £600 per annum, takes the place of a former subvention for the purpose of sending students out of the colony, of whom one-half never returned. By arranging to have the money formerly spent in this way appropriated to the completion of the full medical course, the Council of the University did good service to South Australia, and Dr. Cockburn was at the time delighted to acquiesce in a scheme which kept brains and money in the colony, whilst at the same time devoting them to the service of suffering humanity. In reality the Government gets back in the shape of hospital fees and reduced rates for medical services at the various institutions much of the outlay it has hitherto incurred. In reviewing last August the Budget proposals we felt some degree of diffidence in putting the query as to whether the Hospital dispute and the proposed destruction of the Medical School had any connection with each other, but the utter absence of any adequate explanation of the hasty abolition of the grant makes it difficult, if not impossible, to resist the conclusion that revenge, at all events so far as the Premier is concerned, has a good deal to do with the adoption of this retrograde and irrational policy.

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