

The Register 23 - Nov. 1897

MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY.

Thirty-two candidates, whose names appeared in Monday's *Register*, have passed the senior practical examination in music at the University. The list is a great advance upon that of 1896, which showed only twenty-three successes. Nine candidates secured a first-class for playing the pianoforte, while in the violin and organ sections only one in each case obtained that coveted distinction. The examinations this year are particularly noteworthy, as they are the first under the new joint arrangement with the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music in London; and the presence of Mr. Lee Williams as an examiner will undoubtedly impart an additional element of value to the certificates received. In other respects the University, through the bequest of the late Sir Thomas Elder, is on the eve of important developments connected with musical education in South Australia. On the agenda-paper for the next meeting of the Senate the only business relative to musical study is the formal adoption of the title of "Elder Professor of Music" by the holder of the Chair of Music. The larger matters pertaining to the proposed establishment of a Conservatorium will evidently require more consideration than could be given to them in the short time available if an attempt were made to bring the new institution into operation at the beginning of next year.

The real object to be striven for is the provision of a musical education of a true University grade, so that the studies of well-advanced artists and students may be directed intelligently and capably. On no account should the element of standard be subordinated to the object of attracting large numbers of second and third grade students. From a University point of view the seeming success of such a policy would involve a real failure. The highest must always be aimed at by the University, if it is to maintain its proper position as the apex of the educational system; and this remark applies to studies of all kinds. In mathematics, for example, if the professors were to devote their time to teaching the multiplication table and vulgar fractions instead of trigonometry and differential calculus they might have scores of pupils in their classes where now they have only half a dozen; but the waste of talent and of opportunity would be none the less apparent to those who understand the nature and value of the higher education. The true function of a University is to teach teachers rather than pupils. What the Elder bequest was evidently intended to effect was the establishment of a University in the higher branches of executant music—not merely the conversion of the institution into a rival of the already established teachers of the colony.

The generous donor's idea was probably rather to afford to these teachers and to other advanced students the opportunity of obtaining a deeper insight into the delicacies and intricacies of an art so difficult in its higher phases that only a very few gifted natures in any one generation can make even a moderately close approach to perfection in it.

The Argus 16th Nov. 1897

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES.

A meeting of the University Council was held at the University yesterday. Present—The vice-chancellor (Sir John Madden) in the chair, Bishop Goe, Mr. Justice A'Beckett, Dr. Morrison, Mr. R. Murray Smith, M.L.A., Mr. J. Grice, and Mr. R. L. J. Ellery.

CONFERRING DEGREES.

The following candidates for degrees were presented by the president of the Professorial Board (Professor Orme Masson), and were admitted to their respective degrees in the usual formula:—

Bachelor of Arts.—Robert John Houston, Bertram Arthur Levinson, Harold John Stewart.

Master of Arts.—Leslie James Wrigley.

Bachelor of Laws.—Hereward Humfry Henchman, Alban Cyril Morley.

Bachelor of Medicine.—George Hugh Spencer Blackburne, Frederic John Chapple (in absentia), Ethel Mary Vaughan Cowan, Wyatt Bristow Docker, Henry Francis Herbert Elvins, Harold Maund Evans, Albert Ernest Frost, Arthur Palmer Henzell, William Beaumont Heyward, William Arthur James, Simon Joel, Edward Angas Johnson, Henry Laurie, John Robert Lee, Arthur Gerald M'Gowan, Vivian Bernard Orr, Mathias Michal Perl, Albert John William Philpott, Violet May Plummer, Allan Elliott Randell, Reuben Laman Rosenfield (in absentia), Douglas Andrew Shields, Thomas Walker Sinclair, Henry Riddell Stanley, Percy Bloomfield Stewart, Godfrey Unwin Taylor.

Bachelor of Surgery. — Harold Maund Evans, Arthur Palmer Henzell, Simon Joel, Edward Angas Johnson, Vivian Bernard Orr, Albert John William Philpott, Allan Elliott Randell, Reuben Laman Rosenfield (in absentia).

Bachelor of Civil Engineering.—William Boyd (in absentia), Andrew Harkness, Alfred John James Moore, Sylvester Stephen Gregorie Tulloch (in absentia), Colin Alexander Tulloh.

Doctor of Science (ad eundem).—Charles James Martin (London).

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION.

The council was waited upon by a deputation from the senate, consisting of the warden (Dr. M'Inerney), Professors Tucker, Kernot, and Allen, Dr. Leeper, the Rev. S. G. M'Laren, and Mr. J. E. Mackey.

The warden introduced the deputation, and explained that its object was to convey to the council a resolution, unanimously passed by the senate, urging that no student should be allowed to begin the arts course at the University until he or she had passed at matriculation in the subjects which were compulsory in the arts course, namely, Greek, Latin, and elementary mathematics.

Professor Tucker said this request was only a pis aller. It did not represent exactly what the senate wanted. In the first place, the senate wanted the matriculation examination as a whole to be reformed, so that no immature candidate of 15 or 16 should be able to single out half a dozen of the easiest subjects, and having passed in them, be able to call himself a matriculated student of the Melbourne University. The present request applied only to the small proportion of students who proceeded to the University itself, and would not affect the larger number who did not wish to go beyond the matriculation examination. At present the position of a student who came up to the University without having passed at matriculation in the subjects which were compul-

The Report 16 Nov. 1859

sory in the arts course was inconsistent, illogical, and wasteful. Unless a student had some knowledge of Greek and Latin before he began to attend lectures, it was impossible for him to study those subjects with success. As matters stood, only a small proportion of students in the first year had even the most elementary knowledge of either of those languages, and the results were disastrous to all concerned.

Dr. Leeper said that his experience as warden of Trinity College led him to strongly support the senate's recommendation. It was quite a common thing for students to come to the University and begin the arts course without knowing even the Greek alphabet. Many of these students allowed the Greek and Latin to stand over till the rest of their course was disposed of, and one result of that was that they had to study history and philosophy without having any knowledge of those languages. The change proposed would have a most salutary effect on secondary school education in Melbourne, by encouraging good teaching in good schools. Inferior schools were at present far too numerous.

The other members of the deputation also supported the request.

The Vice-chancellor said he feared the change proposed might lead to a falling-off in the fees received by the University, and might also cause dissatisfaction to the general public, who looked upon the present matriculation examination as a sufficient guarantee of education.

Professor Allen said that two years' notice would be given of the change.

The Warden said the plan proposed was already in force in the medical school, which required its students to pass all the compulsory subjects at matriculation.

Mr. Murray-Smith said he understood that several of the professors were against the proposal.

The Vice-chancellor.—What is their reason?

Dr. Morrison.—They fear that it will lead to some students not coming to the University.

The Vice-chancellor.—But what is the use of their coming if they are unfit to learn?

Mr. Ellery.—We want their fees. (Laughter.)

Bishop Goe said he agreed with nearly every word the deputation from the senate had used.

The Vice-chancellor.—It is extremely difficult to disagree with them from an educational point of view, but the financial question is very important.

Mr. Murray-Smith.—It is especially important at the present time.

On the motion of Dr. Morrison, the following were appointed a committee to confer with the committee of the senate on the subject:—Bishop Goe, Sir Henry Wrixon, Mr. Justice A'Beckett, Mr. Grice, Mr. Higgins, Dr. Morrison, and Dr. Macfarland.

The council then adjourned.