

accepted as the most learned nation in the world! At any rate, the reform or innovation now proposed in the Adelaide University is necessary to render operative the scheme of assisting the teachers. The acquisition of a fair knowledge of Greek would consume as much time as any four more modern subjects, and the learning acquired would have little bearing upon the professional duties of the teacher. This fact was clearly perceived and frequently insisted upon by the late Inspector-General of Schools, who was also Vice-Chancellor of the University. In the direction of modernizing the courses of study it seems likely that Oxford and Cambridge will be among the last Universities to move. It will be a source of honour to the University of Adelaide if it should be in the vanguard.

## UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

### THE STUDY OF GREEK.

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Adelaide was held on Friday afternoon for the purpose of discussing a very elaborate series of amendments and alterations to the statutes and regulations now in force respecting the course of study for the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Laws, as well as the Diploma of Mining and Metallurgy, and also alterations in the statutes relating to the Elder Scholarships.

Professor Mitchell brought up the new regulations relating to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, and in doing so explained that the proposed reforms had received an immense amount of attention from the University Council. The principal, and perhaps the only really debatable point was the proposal to place Greek upon a new footing with regard to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. It was intended that in future there should be fifteen subjects instead of only six, and that none of those subjects in their advanced stages should be actually compulsory. In former times there were only six subjects, namely:—Latin, Greek, mathematics, pure and applied, logic, and physics. Each of those was compulsory for the acquisition of the degree. Under the new system it was proposed to make only the lower standards of Latin and mathematics compulsory, equivalent to something like the matriculation standard. With this proviso, too, the fifteen subjects now enumerated would be optional. That rendered Greek an optional subject like the rest. For the Honours Degree in classics the ordinary Greek and Latin passes would be required, and classics were encouraged, inasmuch as the number of subjects to be passed in on that side was less than on any other side of the University course for the degree. Sydney University took the important step several years ago of omitting Greek from the list of compulsory subjects. The Commission which sat four or five years ago for the purpose of defining the courses of study in Scotch Universities, recommended the same course. Lord Kelvin, on this Commission, represented the scientific side, and Professor Butcher the classical, and both were agreed that it was desirable to encourage Greek simply as an optional subject in Scotch Universities. He moved the adoption of the new regulations respecting the B.A. Degree.

The Rev. F. S. Poole moved an amendment to the effect that it was desirable to remit the question back to the Council for reconsideration. He said that there was no doubt that the effect of removing Greek from the list of compulsory subjects in the University would be to extinguish the study of the language in the secondary schools, and that he considered extremely undesirable. The one thing which marked off a man of culture, educated at one of our great English Universities from those who had possessed less advantages of an educational type, was the undefinable grace and charm of mind he obtained by a thorough training and acquaintance with the litterae humaniores. So far as ladies were concerned, it need not be feared that by still continuing to demand Greek as necessary for the completion for the degree of B.A., they would be debarred from obtaining honours in the University. He mentioned several ladies, among them Miss Stawell, a daughter of the late Chief Justice of Victoria, who had done splendid work in classics both in Australian and in English Universities. He concluded by a warm appeal to members of the Senate not to agree to any innovation which, he believed, would be a serious retrograde step, placing the colony, so far as higher education and culture were concerned, back again in the dark ages.

Professor Bensly thanked the members of the Council for the care and trouble which they had taken over the matter of the classical curriculum, which was his special department of the University study. He especially thanked Professor Mitchell for the

very temperate and guarded way in which he had placed the proposed innovation before the Senate, but he emphatically dissented from the proposal, and pointed out in regard to the alterations which had been made in the Scottish Universities that the standard of classical culture in North Britain was by no means so high as in the English Universities. During a wide experience with educated men in Germany, America, and elsewhere, he had generally found in regard to men educated in Scottish Universities that there was an indefinable something wanting in their culture, and that something he concluded must be the larger view and more delicate insight which came from an extensive acquaintance with classical literature. Then again it must be remembered that Greek was almost an essential for the higher study of even the Latin language, and he protested that he could not see that there was any reason for making a distinction between the two great classical languages, at any rate, as against one language which had always been paramount in the history of the world as the finest medium of thought and culture ever known. He referred to the calendar of the Sydney University, which showed that during the past four or five years, that was to say since Greek was rendered non-compulsory, the number of students who sat for examination in Greek was, on the average, only two.

The Chancellor, the Right Hon. Sir S. J. Way, asked how many students there were in the arts course in Sydney University altogether, but Professor Bensly was unable to furnish the information.

On being put to the vote by the Warden of the Senate, Canon Poole's amendment was carried by a considerable majority.

The regulations relating to the Bachelor of Science degree enabling students to take the course on a liberal plan similar to that of the Higher Public Examinations was carried without a dissentient voice, as was also a regulation adding fire assaying to metallurgy as a subject for the diploma in connection with mining engineering. Regulations were also passed altering the fees in the medical course and permitting holders of Elder scholarships in music, if they so desire, to retain the title of honorary scholar, while allowing the Council to use emoluments for further scholarships for deserving students. The removal of geography from English to the physical branch in the Junior Public Examination was approved, as well as one or two machinery statutes of the University. Several proposals consequent upon the intended alteration as regards Greek which the Senate had rejected were postponed until next Friday, when the whole position will be reconsidered by the Council, and will come before the adjourned meeting of the Senate.