

think numbers them in treatment from men in that they do not get the nominal degree, but a certificate is given them instead. The degree of M.A. as appended to a man's name is only a sign of attendance. It means that the possessor is a member of a corporate body having certain privileges. For instance, in England a man taking a degree has a vote for a member of Parliament to represent the university, and all kinds of disciplinary measures are encouraged. Under the whole constitution of the universities is remodelled it will be difficult to grant the woman further privileges, but it is an exceedingly complicated matter to legally alter the system. But if the women case for the instruction rather than for the empty honours of the degree they can get all the privileges which men enjoy. The chief complaint that it would be a great advantage for them to be able to attach the emblem of initials to their names. A girl who is able to write B.A., Lond., to her name has a better chance for employment than one who has taken the corresponding degree at Cambridge, which does not carry the same privilege. The University gives her a testimonial which men do not get. I have not a piece of paper to show that I have taken my degree. My name is on the book only. But a woman is given a piece of paper to show that she would have been entitled to a degree if she had been a man, and in the last place in the University records her name is inserted at the point corresponding with the position she took at the examination. On the whole the universities have been advancing very rapidly. They are not ultra-conservative, but there are all kinds of rights and technicalities which have grown up with the development of the universities. They are historical growths of centuries. They have not been created, and after all the chief thing is to see how the woman will use her knowledge. It is all very fine for them to pass an examination, but the thing is to see what inventions or discoveries they will make with their information. There is no doubt woman possesses the receptive faculty, but it is not so plain with regard to originality. Their receptive powers make them very good at examinations. They use other people's opinions instead of their own. Women for centuries have had musical teaching; they have acquired skill in performance, but it is impossible to point out a single woman composer of note who has risen above the second rank. They have never composed an opera which has gained distinction by its merits, although they have written a few little songs. In the region of science also they have not made any important discoveries.

If there are difficulties in the way of the established universities granting degrees to women could not ladies' universities be formed, and thus remove the difficulty?
"There should be no distinction of sex in knowledge. There are lady lecturers at the colleges for women in connection with the old centres of learning, but the students have also the benefit of attending the lectures given by the professors who speak before mixed audiences as well as give private tuition. In examination there should be no division or there could be no uniformity, and I do not think there is any need for new 'ladies' universities. The Holloway College is a gigantic failure. A few years ago it had 30 or 40 students, and the directors appealed to the London Corporation to establish scholarships to attract students to the institution. A few scholarships were privately subscribed for two or three years, but these inducements failed to secure the desired result. The money was wrongly expended. It could have been applied with very much better results at the old seats of learning. The plan was built for the honor of the founder, like many American universities, of which there are three or four hundred scattered about the States with varying standards of excellence."

S.A. Register

19th June 1898.

ARRIVAL OF PROFESSOR BENSLEY.

Mr. E. Bensley who has been recently appointed as Professor of Classics at the Adelaide University, arrived in the colony on Tuesday morning by the mail steamer Rome. Mr. Bensley, who is an M.A. of Cambridge, is a comparatively young man, but has seen considerable experience in University work, and his selection from a number of other applicants should, from all accounts and first appearance, soon be justified. Mr. Bensley is erect and rather above the usual height, but a casual conversation with him gives the idea that he did not secure his appointment merely on any prowess he may possess with the bat or the oar, of which, he himself remarked, so much is apt to be made in some scholastic centres. The new master gives the impression of being well versed in his particular branch of study, but he is by no means deficient of a general knowledge of what might be termed "live" subjects, as he has apparently made good use of his powers of observation in the various countries he has visited.

Professor Bensley informed a representative of the Register that this is not his first visit to Australia, though he has not been to Adelaide before. Some three years ago, on his way to America, he visited both Melbourne and Sydney, and became acquainted with some of the Professors there. "It is very curious in going about," he remarked, "to notice the differences there is between the Universities in different countries. I studied for two years in Germany, and held a post for a short time in Chicago. I am well acquainted with English Universities, and now I have come to stay for a time in Australia. Here, of course, I shall conform to the present plans of the Adelaide University." This led up to the question of methods in University work, and Mr. Bensley remarked:—"At the ideal University I think there should be no undergraduate students. There are some such Universities in America, where men go for a year's work. A long as there are a number of undergraduate students the work of a University is rather handicapped; the higher parts of a subject cannot be entered. I think, of course, that this ideal is quite impracticable. It is impossible to give up the undergraduate part of the University, and I would be in favour of combining both aspects. I am strongly impressed with the advantage to be derived from a University training quite apart from the knowledge acquired, but at the same time I think every faculty should be given to a person who wishes to pursue a subject further. There is a tendency, I am aware, for men to specialise, and I think it is carried too far very often." The new Professor has seen a good deal of the University Extension movement both in England and elsewhere, and so far as it has at present developed he does not hold the highest respect for it. On this subject he said: "I agree with a great deal of what was said by a writer in a recent number of the *Nineteenth Century*. That article was rather exaggerated, but there was a good deal of truth underlying it. The movement seems to me to be self-supporting, and to make it so there has to be a good deal of the brass band and playing to the gallery business. I am not referring so particularly to the evening lectures. There has been considerable agitation on the question of making London a teaching University, and I think a plan has been issued, but with exactly what result I am not sure. There are a lot of conflicting interests that have to be considered in such a matter. Personally I do not believe at all in having an examination without residence, because by that means one loses the social advantage of mixing with other men, which is a great part of University life. I think the old Universities of England have been advancing very rapidly in the way of reforms of late years. They are not by any means ultra-conservative, but it must be remembered that the constitution of Oxford and Cambridge is like the British Constitution, and cannot be remodelled at once. It is forgotten that the Universities are the growth of centuries, and there is much that is extremely illogical in them if they are judged by any new standards. This has to be remembered in relation to the admission of women into the Universities. At present they can reside within the University town and pass all the examinations. The only difference between them and the men is that the women do not get a nominal degree conferred upon them, but, instead, are awarded a certificate which states that they have passed certain examinations, and would be entitled to a degree if they were men. This certificate, by-the-way, is more than men get to show that they hold a degree. It is forgotten, too, that the degree of M.A. is not merely the sign of attainments, but it may mean something entirely different. A man holding a degree of M.A. at Oxford or Cambridge, for instance, is entitled to a vote for Parliament, and is a member of a corporate body having certain privileges. It would complicate matters terribly if women were admitted to these privileges, unless the constitution of the Universities were reformed. If women desire the instruction, and not the mere honour of the degree, they can get it. In the University class lists of women's names are printed under the lists of the men, and also the degrees to which they are entitled. Mr. Bensley concluded by remarking that women, themselves to be equal to men, but we were as yet waiting to see what they would do in original work. Mr. Bensley spent a few months in Rome enquiring into art and archaeology before coming to South Australia."