

with which his students presented him on his return set forth. We offer him our warmest congratulations.

Dr. Stirling, too, has come back from a trip to the "old country," and, after a narrow escape from quarantine has resumed his customary work.

With reference to the Union Room, we may say that Professor Bragg, to whom the Union is most deeply indebted for the energy and unflagging zeal with which he has worked for it, has written an article setting forth its many advantages, which can be read below.

THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY UNION.

The Editor asks me to write something about the advantages of becoming a member of the University Union. We all know that good wine needs no bush, and it is equally certain that our Union does not need advertisement, for it exists and flourishes. Time is on its side, and, as years go by, undergraduates will more and more recognise its benefits, until at last membership of the University will become synonymous with membership of the Union. Therefore, though I comply with the Editor's request, it must not be thought that I am harassed by anxiety for the Union's future, but that I am actuated by goodwill and gentle pity for those who have not yet joined our body.

At all times and in all Universities the students have banded themselves together in some common Society. Evidently there is in student life a natural and irresistible tendency in that direction. I do not remember, I must say, to have read about the Societies that existed in the Universities of the Middle Ages, but I am sure the students met then to discuss interesting questions, the merits of the last new lecturer, or the miserable way in which the one fire in the College, that in the dining hall, was fed with fuel. But to come to less ancient times, the Unions of Oxford and Cambridge have always played a famous part. They are social bodies, bringing together the great mass of University men, graduates and undergraduates. Furthermore, they hold debates, which often rise to a high order of argument and eloquence; and many a great British statesman has learnt to speak in their halls. They are housed in fine buildings, with well-furnished libraries, writing rooms, and so forth. In America, too, the Clubs of graduates and undergraduates are

large and flourishing institutions. In a quaint fashion, they name themselves by Greek initials, as for example, Phi, Beta, Kappa, whose meaning is a secret, jealously guarded. The American students have another notable custom, and a very touching one, of keeping up through life their friendship with "classmates," the students of their own particular year. Year by year they will take care to meet, at dinner usually, till the heads grow white and the numbers dwindle away. Some of Wendell Holmes' sweetest poems and sayings refer to the doings and gatherings of "The Boys" of his year.

Again, there are the famous student societies of Germany; and I might extend my list further if it were necessary.

Our own Union will be the centre of undergraduate life, a common meeting place. Students who lead isolated lives, even though the object of their isolation be hard work, do not get the full benefit from their University career. Men whose undergraduate days are past, recognise the good they gained from free fellowship with men of their own age and pursuits—the mutual education, the rubbing off of angles, the broadening of mind, the formation of friendships. In this University we miss many advantages possessed by Universities in richer or older countries. We have no residential Colleges, and therefore nothing of the general fusing which is the result of residence in a common building. All the more important, therefore, is the duty our Union is called upon to fulfil.

We must at first progress slowly. So far, we have housed ourselves in a room which is comfortable, and, we flatter ourselves, already not unpleasing to the eye. Many a happy gathering, we hope, will take place in it in years to come. Much remains to be done, of course. Not only do we hope to add to our building, and improve its contents, but also to bring our members together in various ways to their own mutual pleasure and advantage.

In our consideration of the good offices the Union can fulfil, we should not lose sight of one that has reference not merely to undergraduates, but the general body of members of our University. We should use our influence to keep up the interest and affection that graduates bear to their Alma Mater. It only needs that they should be brought in touch with her now and again. Our magazine should help to this end. And there is also another means we might use, which, so far as I know, has not yet been discussed. The Union could institute an annual gathering of some sort, a dinner perhaps, or a concert. Probably it

would be well to hold it in the evening of Commemoration Day. There can be little doubt that such a gathering would be most popular and successful; and there can be no doubt of the many benefits that would arise from it. For we wish to knit together in every way we can the members of our University, past and present. From union comes strength, and we wish our University to become a power in the land, a body free from all politics, all class feeling, extending throughout the country its influence in the cause of true education and right thinking. In this good cause our Union can help by the mutual improvement of its members, by the nursing of the spirit of unity and of loyalty to their Alma Mater. Carrying this with them wherever they go, its members will spread the influence of the University and show the advantages of her teaching.

Though the material comfort of the undergraduate members, gained by the building recently erected, has been a great part of the aim of the founders of the Union, yet they have also had before them this higher ideal, and they look with satisfaction and hope on the good beginning the Union has made.

MEMS. FROM MELBOURNE.

When the little band of Adelaide oarsmen who were in Melbourne last year were doing the rounds of the city which they had conquered, they little thought that some of their fellows would soon gaze upon the same scenes (or *some* of the same) through different eyes and with such different emotions. Nor did they think, when admiring the University and its Colleges, that in the space of one brief but exciting year they would be taking an active part in Melbourne University life. But fortune's wheel is a wily instrument at the best of times, working according to no known law, physical or otherwise, and here it is in Melbourne, with the brake hard down, and some score of meds. clinging to the spokes, trying to steady their dizzied senses. And this at first was no easy matter, as may be inferred from the following, written by one when at his bluest:—

You may talk of the beauties of Melbourne,
 When you're there on a holiday spree,
 But it isn't all theatres and banquets,
 When you're stationed for good there, like me;
 But it's grafting from morning till midnight,
 With a blooming great towel round your head,
 And passing your time between stewing
 And wishing that Kingston was dead.

Oh! it's graft, graft, graft, harder than stroke in the eight;

And it's graft, graft, graft, keeping the work up to date;
 Thus, the exiles forlorn, with their watches in pawn,
 Pass on—to the wretched exams.

But despondency such as this didn't last long, and its departure was hastened, among other things, by the cheering presence of Prof. Watson, who did a great deal indeed to lessen the difficulties of the position; and, during his recent visit here with Prof. Krause, he had the pleasure of seeing the exiles all well and moderately happy.

Since our arrival here no effort has been spared by the authorities to make our way smooth, and their action in coming to the rescue of the unfortunate fifth years is worthy of the highest praise.

Socially, our reception has been of the heartiest on all sides, and the sympathy with us universal and sincere. Everyone here wishes to know all about the Hospital fracas, and the most frequent question is, "Why don't you kick them out?" which of course shows how little they know of it.

The only performances worth recording up to the present have been athletic. In rowing, Douglas and Smith (at 4 and bow of Ormond) contributed towards the dead heat of the Ormond-Trinity eight-oar race of '97. The excitement over this race every year is simply vast, and the universal interest for weeks before it goes somewhat to repay the exertions of the galley slaves who encompass the result. In lacrosse the Adelaide men have taken no mean part. Thus, for the "shop" A team, Douglas (the crack 'Varsity forward, *vide* the *Argus*) and Evans are full of goals, and Wilson and Russell back make a warm pair, and are a constant source of annoyance to the forwards of the other teams. Chapple and Randell have each played once for A, and both did remarkably well. At present the team shares top position with the M.C.C., whom they defeated a week ago (8 to 5); and since the M.C.C. is the hardest nut to crack, the outlook is encouraging, because we should have no difficulty in turning the tables on Essendon, who by some means beat us 3 to 2, though we had their goal besieged continually. For the B Team Johnson, Randell, and Hains are doing valiant service.

In football we have a sole representative in Douglas, who is playing forward for Ormond in the approaching match with Trinity College.

In tennis, Chapple makes one of Queen's first double, and Miss Goode was one of the four Trinity girls who made the Ormond girls' four bite the dust recently.

These notes would be incomplete if they did not include some mention of college life, which, for many of us, has made the absence from home nearly bearable. To give a full account of its