

The Advertiser

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1886.

THE publication of the Calendar of the University of Adelaide places before the public the annual report for the year 1885. That report is full of interest, and contains the record of a great amount of solid and successful work. It shows that the usefulness of the University is increasing and that its influence is being beneficially felt upon the community. The number of undergraduates in the various courses is stated to be 95, against 53 during the previous year. This increase is mainly due to the establishment of the two new schools of medicine and music. The number of non-graduating students attending lectures is 94 against 99 last year, a slight decrease of five; but if to this number there be added the 118 students who have attended in whole or in part at the evening classes the increase is very great. Altogether no fewer than 307 persons have been enrolled as students of one grade or other during the year 1885, which is more than double the number in 1884, when 152 appeared on the class-rolls of the various professors and lecturers. The number who were admitted to degrees at the last commemoration was not so large as on previous occasions. Three took the degree of LL.B., one the degree of B.Sc., and two the degree of B.A. The students in law, music and, medicine are too near the commencement of their career to appear on the list of graduates, though it must be confessed that the number who passed the examination for LL.B. was very small compared with the list of candidates. This is not to be regretted, for while no great impediment should be placed in the way of obtaining the requisite certificate for a practising solicitor, the ornamental appendage of a degree in law ought to maintain its character. Our ambitious young lawyers seem, however, to find that academic honors are not to be obtained as easily as they expected, if we take note of the curious fact that the Stow prizes were not

awarded, and that Mr. Sheridan's prize for an essay on Comparative Law and Custom, has no one to carry it off, not because there were no claimants, but because "no essay showed marked ability."

The examinations which are intended for the pupils of the schools, and for those who intend to qualify for entrance upon the University course, show a slight increase. For the junior examination 128 candidates presented themselves, against 107 in the previous year. This is an increase of 21, but the number who were "plucked" was very much larger than on any previous occasion. Only 67 passed this year, or just three more than half the number of candidates, whereas last year 80 passed, that is nearly four-fifths of the candidates. It is difficult to account for this sudden alteration in the table of results unless it be that the successes of the previous year made schoolmasters and parents overbold in sending up pupils who were not properly prepared. It would be interesting if the names of the various schools from which the candidates came were given, as well as the schools of the successful ones; but this would be hardly fair, and the public cannot grumble if the information be withheld. The matriculation examination shows almost the same numbers as in the previous year. There are two matriculation examinations, one in March and one

in December. In 1884 the numbers were 29 and 61; total, 90. In 1885 the numbers were 26 and 61; total, 87, or a falling-off of three. The success of the candidates in each year was about equal. In 1884 54 succeeded in passing in one or other of the three classes into which they are divided. In 1885 the number was 56, or two more than in the previous year, but as the number in the third class was unusually large the credit is about equally divided between the two years. The most notable events of the year have been the commencement of two new graduate courses, and the experiment of establishing evening classes. Medicine and music appear for the first time in the report of the actual work done by the University. The Medical School has made a good beginning. The council have secured the services of a staff of lecturers which would do honor to any university. Professor Watson and Professor Rennie, who have charge of the anatomical dissecting-room and of the chemical laboratory, have made their departments as complete as possible. A new physiological laboratory and lecture theatre for Dr. Stirling is now being erected, and will be ready for occupation when the next session opens. "On the opening of the Medical School in March seven students entered themselves, of whom six have completed the first year." There is accommodation for about sixteen students in this school. It is much to be regretted that the endowment of the school is not sufficient to provide for more than two years' tuition. The bodies at home which register medical qualifications will not allow one man to teach more than one subject, so that until the endowment is largely increased our youthful aspirants for the medical profession must finish their education elsewhere.

The establishment of the evening classes has been an experiment which has met with fair success. It will be remembered that a number of young men, representing various literary societies, called public attention to the fact that there was no opportunity afforded for those who were employed during the day to pursue any course of study at the University. It was stated that other Universities had various series of evening classes, which

were designed to meet the wants of such young men, and Sydney and Manchester were quoted as illustrations. The council felt that its hands were tied through want of funds. The liberality of Sir Thomas Elder, who forwarded a contribution of £1,000, enabled the council to make a beginning. Some of the professors volunteered their services and other lecturers were engaged. Classes were formed in junior Latin, senior Latin, Greek, geology, and junior and senior mathematics. Mathematics was by far the most popular, nearly half the total number of evening students being enrolled for that subject. These classes have all diminished seriously during the year, but as the council have arranged for one class fee to extend over the three terms of the academic year, the principal cause of the decadence will disappear. The exodus of our young men to other colonies has had something to do with this unsatisfactory state of the classes at the close of the year. The Musical School has more than met the expectations of the most sanguine of the promoters and subscribers. From the outset the lectures of Professor Ives have been well attended. Twenty-five students commenced the undergraduate course for the Mus. Bac. degree, and sixteen of these succeeded in passing the first year. It is hardly to be wished, and certainly not to be expected, that all these