

being a second examiner—an examiner, who, with a mind not endowed with pity or favoritism, but with just determination to do his work faithfully and conscientiously, remembering that the papers before him are, in the majority of instances, the work of children, and not of university students—and while on the one hand avoiding pity and favoritism, not “to be extreme to mark what is done amiss”—an examiner who would “be disposed to go back” and “plough through the papers,” and if necessary alter the decision of the first examiner—although as experienced as “Theoretikos.” If a second examiner is appointed outside the University after the letter of “Verus” in your issue of this morning, for obvious reasons a member of a “home” university without prejudice should be selected.—I am, &c.,

SPECTATOR.

January 28, 1886.

Register February 1st 1886

THE UNIVERSITY.—“Another injustice to Ireland” is the moral of Lord Carnarvon’s letter to Sir Arthur Blyth, which was read at the latest meeting of the University Council. Professor Mahaffy, one of the most brilliant Greek scholars of the day, wrote, seemingly without authority from the ruling body of Dublin University, a minute for the perusal of Lord Carnarvon, late Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. In this document the Professor complained that the Australian Universities do not pay sufficient attention to the claims of Irish scholars when there is a vacant chair. They, it appears, entrust the selection to members of English Universities, who are naturally inclined to favour their own men. It appears that no Irish mathematician was asked to advise the Adelaide University on the claims of the candidates for the chair rendered vacant by the resignation of Professor Lamb. There is some difficulty in deciding as to the course which ought to be pursued in such cases. If the principle is established that a prominent member of each British University is to be placed on the Council of Advice, it is just possible that local or national prejudice may render an election impossible, and that each adviser may vote for his own man. But, indeed, Professor Mahaffy need not quarrel with the Adelaide University. Professor Boulger, as the Agent-General pointed out, is a Trinity College, Dublin, man, and Professor Kelly, though he graduated also at Cambridge, was also fostered by the “silent sister.” Sydney is the worst offender, now that Mr. Posnett,

a distinguished Dublin man, has been elected to a New Zealand Professorship. Trinity College, Melbourne, founded on the lines of the Dublin institution, is ruled by Mr. Leeper, another alumnus of Dublin. On the whole, we cannot see that Dublin, considering its relative size, has much to complain of in the way it is treated in the colonies. With regard to Mr. Bragg, the new Professor, the most captious critic can have nothing to censure in his career except that it did not begin earlier in the century. It is a consolation that he will get older every year, and thus what Dr. Johnson called "the atrocious crime of being a young man" will be blotted out by time. Mr. Bragg comes to us with a high reputation which it is to his own interest to maintain. Great things are expected of any successor to Professor Lamb, and we cannot think that Mr. Bragg, who comes from Trinity—his predecessor's College—and who was third wrangler of his year, will fail to keep for the Mathematical Chair of Adelaide the high reputation which now belongs to it. Another item of interest in the report of the meeting is the rules and arrangements for the evening classes. The Council has wisely determined that classes will not be formed unless a certain number of students present themselves. The minimum can in no case be regarded as high. Thus ten students only are required for the formation of a class in elementary Latin, geology, and mathematics respectively; whilst the minimum for advanced Latin and Greek is only six, and the lecturers in

English, French, and German are left free to fix the number for those languages. We regret to learn that advantage is not taken of these classes to that extent which was anticipated. The various Young Men's Societies took the proposal up warmly when it was originated, but their enthusiasm for the higher learning seems to have waned considerably. Perhaps things will be different this session, and we should be sorry to have to record that the University felt itself bound to discontinue the classes on the ground of paucity of attendance.

Register February 2nd 1886

EVENING CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I have read with a keen avidity the remarks in your sub-leader upon our “evening-class system” now extant, and I know you are an earnest advocate of it. I agree with you that it would be a great pity indeed to have to record “that the University felt itself bound to discontinue the classes on the ground of paucity of attendance.” I have been a member since its inception, both in elementary Latin and mathematics, and under the fostering care of Professor Boulger and Mr. Churchward I have, I do not say it egotistically, advanced considerably in both sciences, and I have noticed with regret a considerable falling-off of students in both classes, so much so that at the third session the Latin class ignominiously collapsed, and the mathematical class just had enough after a considerable dwindling away to form a mediocre class. It is a great pity that there is such little attention bestowed upon this good cause; and it is also unworthy of us to throw cold water upon the aspirations and philanthropic efforts of Sir Thomas Elder and other magnificent donors. Why, I have paid the sum of one guinea at a grammar class, and only one night a week, and taught by inferior talent, so to speak; and when I come to consider that I am taught two nights a week two important subjects, and by the best talent in the land, it almost seems to me that I am learning doubly more for the same amount, with the superior talent into the bargain. I think the people are stultifying themselves by not availing themselves or the children of the opportunity, the like of which, if this fails, will never occur again. In my opinion, and yours too, Dublin is well represented in the distinguished Professors Boulger and Kelly, and I think instead of being an “injustice to Ireland” it is an injustice to “South Australia” and her munificent donors not to recognise their efforts. I hope the youths as well as those of the middle age will attend these lectures, and will thus show their appreciation of them.

I am, Sir, &c.,

D. J. C.

Port Adelaide.

[It would be a good thing if our correspondent attended an elementary class upon English composition, as he has much to learn in that branch.—ED.]

Advertiser of February 5/86.

A meeting of the general committee of the South Australian Literary Societies' Union was held at the Y.M.C.A. rooms on Thursday evening. A good number of the different societies were represented, and the Hon. Dr. Campbell, M.L.C., (one of the vice-presidents), occupied the chair. The treasurer's statement showed that the union was £7 14s. 8d. worse off than at the beginning of last year. The credit balance was now about £71. It was explained that the loss had accrued in connection with the social which had been held. The secretary stated that he had written to the registrar of the University as to whether the amount received from fees added to the interest on the £1,000 endowment given by Sir Thomas Elder was sufficient to cover the expenses of the evening classes. In reply the registrar stated—"The numbers enrolled at starting for the evening classes were—Mathematics, 54; junior Latin, 30; senior Latin, 10; ; Greek, 12; geology, 27. The attendances at lectures were:—First term—Mathematics 54; junior Latin, 17; senior Latin, 10; Greek, 10; geology, 27. Second term—Mathematics, 37; junior Latin, 15; senior Latin, 6; Greek, 0; geology, 13. Third term—Mathematics, 29; junior Latin, 7; senior Latin, 8; Greek, 0; geology, 11. The class in mathematics being a large one Mr. Churchward (the lecturer) obtained permission from the council to divide it into two classes, viz., senior and junior. In the second term the Greek class, which had fallen to four students, was disbanded by permission of the council.