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THE recent meeting of the Senate of the University was remarkable in more ways than one. The senate, which consists of the body of graduates, is entrusted with the responsible business of electing the members of the council, and when the council has framed a new statute or a fresh regulation neither is deemed valid until it has been accepted by the senate. There never was a longer or a more important notice-paper than that which came under discussion at the meeting. We regret, however, that the momentous character of this batch of academic bills did not succeed in attracting many more members than are requisite to form a bare quorum. Those who were present accepted and passed all that was presented to them without making any remarks. The only point debated at all was the fee to be charged for the LL.D. examination. Such amiable taciturnity may conduce to easy legislation, and if it could be imitated in our Houses of Parliament might make the ministerial benches to be a very heaven of peace; but for the sake of the public, who are not to be expected to peruse the dry details of bare statutes, it would be well if there were a little more talk than our learned senators indulged in in doing their business. Hitherto all legislation which has come down from the council has been left to take its chance in the other house. No one has been held responsible for piloting the measures of the council in their passage through the senate. This undesirable condition is now to be altered. Both houses have agreed upon a scheme which will bring them into a closer organic unity. The council will henceforth have its representative in the senate somewhat in the same way as the Ministry is represented in the Upper House of Parliament. This representative will be prepared to answer questions, and will take charge of measures which the council may send down for the senate to approve or reject. In the present instance the vice-chancellor has been honored with this general

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responsibility, but particular statutes may be entrusted to those who are especially fitted to explain them and to defend them.

The most important of these academic measures was that providing for the degree of bachelor of medicine. The medical school has already made a fair start. A professor of anatomy has been appointed. The old powder magazine has been altered and enlarged, so as to admit of its being used as a lecture-room and dissecting chamber for the students. A lectureship on physiology has been established. Six students have been enrolled as candidates for the honor and the labor of qualifying themselves for the medical profession, but up to this time no regulations have been formally adopted. Our University has provided for instruction in no more than the first two out of the five years which are deemed necessary for the degree of a bachelor of medicine. In this it has done wisely, for it would have injured most fatally the reputation of the University if it had attempted to provide for the entire curriculum with such a modest endowment as £10,000. The gift of this sum was indeed a munificent act on the part of Sir Thomas Elder, but it would require more than as much again to provide tuition in all the various branches of a medical education. It is to be hoped that the spirit of public generosity may seize hold of some other of our wealthy fellow-colonists, and that before long the gaps in the arrangements of the University may be filled up. Our young men may, however, have full confidence in the work of

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the medical school as far as it goes. They may complete their first two years as satisfactorily here as in Edinburgh or London, and after that may either go to England or to Victoria and continue their studies. Another code of regulations which the senate adopted was concerned with the degree of doctor-of laws. We do not anticipate that very many candidates will be forthcoming for this degree, but if any ambitious lawyers fancy that they can obtain the coveted title merely for the asking, or as the reward of a career of successful pleading at the bar, they will find that the Adelaide LL.D. is not a mere honorary distinction, but is to be conferred as the reward of real study and downright hard work. The royal charter does not permit the granting of any degree as a compliment, and it is to be hoped that our University will never make any of its degrees to become mere compliments by making them too easy of acquisition.

Two regulations were adopted which concern the more popular examinations which stand at the gateway of the academic curriculum. In the junior examination the limit of age beyond which no candidate can present himself is fixed for sixteen. This was altered to seventeen for the past year, and this alteration is extended for another year. If it be really true that this examination represents the standard of acquirement which pupils in our schools ought to attain by the time they are sixteen, then it does not reflect much credit on our schools and colleges that this limit of age should be altered to seventeen. If, on the other hand, it be the case that the examination is too difficult for boys and girls until they have entered their seventeenth year, then we do not see why the regulation should be made operative only till 1886. In reference to the matriculation examination two changes were made which will tend to make it more popular and more useful. Elementary music has been added to the optional subjects, so that candidates for the special degree of Mus. Bac. will be spared the irksome labor of "cramming up" chemistry, or Greek, or trigonometry, which it is intended to forget as soon

as possible. The other regulation reads thus—"Candidates who have passed the junior examination, or who have at some previous matriculation examination passed in subjects 1 to 6 will not be required to present themselves again in these subjects." This explains itself. It saves the candidate who has been "plucked" from a certain amount of irksome toil, without lessening the character and the range of the test to which he submits. The statute as to granting leave of absence to professors on condition that an approved substitute be provided has somewhat the appearance of *ex post facto* legislation. It is well known that Professor Lamb, F.R.S., has gone on a visit to Europe after ten years of service, and has already obtained leave of absence. It is better, however, that this question should be definitely settled in the statutes, and that the public should know on what terms the privilege of absence may be granted. Rumor has been busy with this absence of our learned professor of mathematics, and has predicted that his return is very problematical; that he has been virtually offered the chair of mathematics at Owen's College, and that a successor will have to be nominated. It would be idle to deny that there is some truth in this rumor, but for the sake of this University it is to be hoped that Professor Lamb's absence will prove to be, after all, only a merited holiday, as provided for in this new statute. Numerous as were the various codes submitted to the senate, one was conspicuous by its absence. The new school of music is still unprovided with any statutes or regulations. We presume that these will be forthcoming before long, and will be presented to the next meeting of the senate. It would be well if a special meeting of the senate were convened as soon as the council has done its work, for there is naturally considerable curiosity and anxiety to know exactly the terms which must be complied with by those who are wishful to obtain the popular and novel degree of Mus. Bac.