

these circumstances it cannot but be that greater store will be set upon instruction in modern languages than was formerly the case. And surely there is much reason for maintaining the position that all possible encouragement should be given by University examination, or any other means, to the acquirement of that which is practically useful. It was very truly said by Archdeacon Farr that "the University examinations should not only be thrown open to the two or three schools who teach Greek, but to every young man and girl who wished to attend them." Nor will much sympathy be felt by the public with the contention that the subjects usually taken by the girls should have awarded to them fewer marks than those which have generally been taken by the boys. We do not agree with the superficial view that classics and mathematics are of no value because their use does not appear in precisely the same way as that of modern languages; but neither are we in sympathy with the idea that boys must be stuffed with Latin and Greek, no matter whether in their future life they are or are not likely to have any need or opportunity for the use of such acquirements. On the whole the new regulations, while offering encouragement to the study of classics and mathematics, go a step in the right direction in according some fuller recognition than has hitherto been given to the study of modern languages.

---

---

# The Register.

ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, SEPT. 25, 1886.

## THE NEW UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS.

The Senate of the University has agreed to the new regulations concerning public examinations. It was proposed early in yesterday's proceedings that they should be considered *seriatim*, but the Warden, acting under what is plainly a mistaken conception of clause 8 of the Act of Incorporation, ruled that no amendments were admissible, and that the Senate must accept or reject the regulations *en bloc*. This clause, in giving the Council power to make and alter statutes and regulations, provides that "no new statute or regulation, or alteration or repeal of any existing statute, shall be of any force until approved by the Senate." Now the Warden took the whole scheme proposed by the Council to be one regulation, a construction which he will not find supported by any competent authority. This is not by any means an unimportant point. The scheme is one of very large dimensions. It is the fruit of much anxious and conscientious labour on the part of the Council; and it may fairly be argued that if the members of the Council took a long time to perfect the details of their scheme the Senate should have been allowed a proportionate time to consider them. There were very few members of the Senate present who did not recognise the fact that there are many points of advantage in the scheme, and it was generally felt that with an amendment here and there it would be found to be far preferable to that now in force. We

do not know whether the undoubted unsoundness of the Warden's ruling furnishes any ground for the reconsideration of the matter. There is not a shadow of doubt but that the voting of many members of the Senate was prejudiced by it, for they naturally preferred the adoption of the new scheme, with all its imperfections, to its total rejection. If they could have made amendments so much the better, but if they could not they would sooner have the new scheme than the old. We may be excused here for remarking that much of the present difficulty would have been obviated had the meetings of the Council been open to the representatives of the Press. In that case the details of the scheme would have been gradually made known, and members of the Senate, in common with the rest of the public, would have had an opportunity of studying them before being asked to approve or reject them. As it is, the scheme was not furnished to the Senate until a week before their meeting, and then in a very imperfect form. This is a very slipshod way of doing business, and the manner of the passing of the regulations reflects no great credit upon the mode of operations of the Council of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor acted as godfather to the new regulations. He introduced them with the remark that "nothing needed to be said about the arrangements for the Matriculation Examination." The point of this lies in its application. Last Tuesday, when writing on the subject, we pointed out that the Council had omitted from its programme all regulations as to matriculation, and that, inasmuch as this new scheme contemplated the abolition of the former regulations, the University was left in the anomalous position of an institution which offers degrees, and yet carefully abstains from giving the conditions under which students may enter upon their course for these degrees. The absurdity of this position was sufficiently demonstrated by Mr. Fletcher himself, who, after saying that

it was unnecessary to make arrangements for matriculation, forthwith proceeded to announce that the Council had only yesterday afternoon seen the necessity of making them. Why should they make new arrangements if it was unnecessary to do so? Why, especially, should they make them known at the last moment, so that nobody could have a chance of studying them? The Senate did not want to know the meaning of the word matriculation, and Mr. Fletcher need hardly have gone to the trouble of entering into explanations in this particular. What was required was a statement as to how the new public examinations would affect the University, and wherein the noted departures from the old rules would act upon the Matriculation Examination. It now appears that the Professorial Board and the Faculties of Law and Medicine have suggested certain courses for those students who desire to graduate. There was nothing in the scheme as at first published to indicate that this matter had been even considered, and we are glad that information upon the point has come to hand, however tardily.