

The Register.

ADELAIDE: FRIDAY, DEC. 11, 1896.

THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

The year's class-lists of the University of Adelaide are completed by the results of the senior and junior public examinations which are published this morning. These are not strictly to be reckoned as being class-lists of the institution itself, but rather as the outcome of public tests intended for the use of intermediate schools. The fact that they are held under the auspices of the University no doubt renders the value of the certificates gained by successful candidates very much greater than they would be if the examinations were conducted by private Colleges or individuals. The appearance of the lists will put an end to the intense suspense and anxiety felt by children and parents during the past fortnight. To very many of these, however, it will give but little satisfaction, as the number of failures is large as compared with the successes, and the proportion of first and second class passes is exceedingly small. In any case it should not be forgotten that the mere act of passing any one or more of the public examinations cannot be looked upon as conferring any academic standing upon the successful candidates. This aspect of the question, especially in its relation to the course in musical study, is emphasized in the letters from Professor Ives and Mr. E. H. Davies printed by us a few days ago in answer to one signed "Professional." From the standpoint occupied by the University as a corporate body the only certificates which it recognises as indicating competence to teach any given subject are those of its inside examinations, gained by "graduating" students after they have passed their entrance tests and completed the courses prescribed for each separate degree. At the same time it has undoubtedly been found to be a source of much general convenience

that the outside public examinations should be taken as criteria of fitness to impart the more elementary teaching required by beginners in the various subjects. In the mediæval Universities no one was recognised as competent to impart instruction in a complete course of any particular school of studies until he had attained to the rank of "doctor" or teacher or, at lesst, to that of "master." Yet it is

questionable whether the entrance examination at the University of London at the present day does not require a wider range of knowledge than the complete graduate course in the days when Wolsey was the "Boy Bachelor."

Four Bachelors of Arts, four Bachelors of Science, two Bachelors of Laws, one Bachelor of Music, and six Graduates in Medicine and Surgery, these are the degrees which have been secured as the fruits of the examinations held last month. Taken by themselves they do not seem anything like an adequate return for all the labour and outlay involved in a year's work of a University twenty-two years after the passing of its Act of incorporation. The highest number of new graduates will be found in the Medical School, but certainly the addition of six new practitioners to the ranks of medical men throughout the colony—to say nothing of those who may establish themselves in Western Australia—will not be sufficient to provide for the needs of the community. There is on this account all the greater reason to deplore the events which will inevitably drive away the students now attending the lectures in medicine and surgery and to bring the good work of the Medical School to an end. The Treasurer in a recent manifesto on the Hospital dispute remarks, from his point of view, that "a pitiful thing connected with the trouble is that the South Australian Medical School connected with the Adelaide University is placed in great danger," and he adds the expression of a fear "that the school may be broken up for some time to come." This cool forecast on the part of one of the very men who are primarily answerable for the whole trouble reminds one strongly of the sarcasm indulged in by the Homeric hero who, when just about to administer the *coup de grace* to an enemy, exclaims, "Young man, I am afraid that you have not long to live."

From the size of the other class-lists, besides those of the fifth or concluding year, it is evident that if the Medical School only gets a fair chance it will

soon become the means of sending out a suitable number of South Australian bred practitioners. Notwithstanding the severe discouragement incidental to the outlook at the beginning of the current year the number who began their course was fully up to the average, and nine have passed their examinations. In their second year eight have been successful; in the third year a similar number; and in the fourth year nine.