

The Advertiser

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THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

THE report of the University Council for 1895 is, like its predecessors, exceedingly bare and dry. Any one of these documents is so similar to every other that it would almost appear as if a stereotyped form were kept, with blanks for the necessary changes of names, numbers, and dates. The compilers do not even assist seekers for information by comparing results with those of previous years, and in order to gain any clear idea of academic progress and developments one must dive into the depths of past and present Calendars, which are so imperfectly indexed that the quest is rendered unnecessarily difficult. We gather, however, that last year was a busy one with the University, more especially in connection with the senior and junior public examinations. The number admitted to degrees at the Commemoration in December last was comparatively small, three graduating in law, three in science, two in arts, and one in medicine. But, although the total is still far from large, the University had more students under instruction last year than in 1894. The number of undergraduates in the various courses was 96, as against 93 in the previous year; while the non-graduating students numbered 192, against 187. Nowhere in the report is there any recognition of the fact that about 50 students of geology, advanced chemistry, physics, and electrical engineering went from the School of Mines to attend the University classes, in accordance with the arrangement made to prevent overlapping. The most popular departments of University teaching continue to be those by which students are educationally fitted for professional careers. Medicine is easily first in attractiveness to aspirants for degrees, and indeed accounts for nearly one-half of the graduating students of the University. The number of under-

graduates studying for the M.B. degree last year was 47, as against 41 in 1894, while 13 commenced the course, as against 10 in the previous year. The fees from the Medical School amount to more than a third of the total fees from all sources. They contributed £1,345 5s. 6d. to the University income last year, showing an increase of £169 4s. 6d. on the total for 1894. The Government subsidy amounted to £600, but although the expenditure on

the Medical School was further reduced to some extent, it was still heavy, amounting to £2,604 11s. 11d. Instead of withdrawing the grant altogether, Ministers have agreed to pay one-half during the current year, and it is satisfactory to know that the additional funds required have been privately subscribed by an anonymous donor, so that the threatened collapse of the flourishing Medical School has been averted.

In the Law School there were last year 12 undergraduates studying for the LL.B. degree. The number in 1894 was 16. The University has had, however, 16 non-graduating students preparing for certificates to enable them to practise in the Supreme Court, an increase of two. The Council, it appears, has found it necessary to reduce the expenses of the Law School, and with this object in view invited specially-qualified members of the legal profession to act as additional honorary examiners. Nine gentlemen in response to this invitation readily and generously offered their service. Last year the income from fees amounted to £380 1s. 6d., as compared with £393 12s. in 1894; and the expenditure of the school was £667 7s. 6d., against £681 1s. 6d. The prominence of those branches of study at the University which are especially connected with preparation for professional life reflects the utilitarian tone of the community. Higher education, absolutely for its own sake, will no doubt receive more attention in time to come, but at present it suffers from a comparative measure of neglect. Relatively speaking, not a great many students attend the lectures of the Arts course with a view to graduating. There were 14 undergraduates studying for the degree of B.A. last year, these including four evening scholars. In 1894 there were 10 on the roll of undergraduates. The number of non-graduating students is, however, large, and also shows an increase, 74 attending various lectures of the B.A. course in 1895 as against 63 in the previous year. Science, concerned as it is with so much that is practical in life, besides possessing unsurpassed

value for intellectual discipline, enlists a large number of votaries. For the B.Sc. degree there were 13 undergraduates studying last year, the same number as in 1894. There were also 103 non-graduating students attending various science lectures; but this total shows a decrease of 15 on the previous year. New regulations provide for the teaching of metallurgy and assaying. Arts and Science (including the higher public examination) represent the most expensive department of University work. The cost, however, has been reduced. In 1894 it amounted to