

provided out of the Elder estate. Although the succession duty received by the Government was of course not earmarked for any particular purpose, it will pay for the proposed new building over and over again. In the circumstances, any contrast of official shabbiness to the splendid generosity of the late Sir Thomas Elder would be a sorry business. We have been anxious from the first that no consideration of false economy should lead to the Government putting up anything at all gimcrack or shoddy. Never ought the State to aid the perversion or degradation of the public taste by crude and vulgar architecture. The beauty gained by the perfect adaptation of means to ends, and by consistent adherence to the laws of constructional art, is much too commonly sacrificed to a cheapness that is yet flashy and pretentious, for Governments to set bad examples. The principle, always good, is peculiarly applicable to such a public building as is now proposed. A temple of art assuredly should not be ugly, and anything like stucco would be an abomination. We hope the design ultimately carried out will be such as to make a considerable advance on the low ideal that was apparently satisfied by the red-brick Museum. As for the University, we should not be in fear of any barbarism. It is the institution, of all others, supposed to represent what there may be of "sweetness and light" in a community mainly devoted to utilitarian ends. The Hall of Music is not to be a costly undertaking, but we take it for granted that the style and execution will be at least refined and tasteful. There remains, however, in respect of both buildings, the question of site, and that for many reasons calls for a very different solution than will be possible unless present intentions are abandoned.

The Government have selected for the Art Gallery the vacant block between the drill shed and the University, and the foundations are already laid. This choice, in the first place, severs the gallery from the block of buildings with which, by

the original design, it was to be associated. Why cannot the original design be followed out? The Library, Museum, and Art Gallery are all under the same management—why are they to be separated? The matter of cost is not worth pressing in this connection. The Elder estate yielded a handsome dividend to the public revenue, and it will be mean to grudge a sufficient grant for the new gallery which the Elder bequest for pictures renders indispensable. But there is another and a more formidable objection to the occupation of the selected site for other than University purposes. The University block of buildings is on a modest scale.

The Advertiser 11th Nov. 97.

But it may fairly be presumed that, as time goes on, the University will grow. As population increases, a more numerous proportion of the youth of the community will aspire to academical distinctions. Doctors and lawyers have always to be made, but ambition will be excited more largely than now for the degrees that are an attestation of scholarship and culture as well as for those that are chiefly desired as a means of entrance to professional life. The University will grow, and grow, we may hope, on the side of a more marked attention to the politer arts. But where is it to grow? The presumption from the appropriation by the Government of the block to the west of the University seems to be that the institution has reached finality. It needs ground for the new hall of music, and if it cannot have the western site it will be forced to use the land lying between the University and the Exhibition Building. That site is larger than is needed for the purpose, but it will be spoiled for any other. With its own hall on one side, and the Art Gallery on the other, the University will be cribbed, cabined, and confined, without possibility of expansion. The whole of the circumstances suggest most strongly the surrender of the Art Gallery site to the University, and the erection of the Gallery on a more liberal design where originally intended.

A NEW ILLUMINANT.

On Wednesday evening a number of gentlemen, including several architects, were invited to inspect a new illuminant, called atmospheric gas, at the Mutual Sanitary Maintenance Company's premises, Charles-street, Adelaide, where the apparatus for producing the gas has been thoroughly tested during the past four months. The owners of the patent rights are Messrs. Fergusson & Hodgson. The gas produces a light at a very nominal cost, and can be supplied to the consumer at 4s. 6d. per thousand cubic feet, and a handsome profit can be made even at this price. The great advantage claimed is that it can be used in connection with the Welsbach, Argand, Bray, and other burners at present used by the ordinary gas. It is said to be cleaner, cheaper, and far less dangerous than coal and other gases. Professor Rennie, of the Adelaide University, has thoroughly tested it, and reports that with ordinary care with the constituents for the mixture required in its production it may be used without danger. The light is far superior to kerosine and quite equal to ordinary gas. The apparatus is very simple. A receptacle similar to an ordinary gasometer stores the air, where it is compressed. It then passes through a box containing chemicals and the gas is then ready for use. The usual gas fittings are all that are required. The initial cost of the installation does not exceed £25 up to 20 lights and £40 up to 50, and the chemicals required costing about £3 per annum. It is proposed to float the invention into a limited liability company. In a few days a small installation will be fitted up at Jackman's rooms, King William-street, and the public will be given an opportunity to view the light.

The Register 17th Nov. 1897.

THE ELDER SCHOLARSHIP.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Is it too late to suggest to those who have to deal with the bequest of the late Sir Thomas Elder the wisdom of making the above scholarship more valuable? As it is, no doubt some are deterred from competing for it having to maintain themselves during vacation, and possibly the best may be shut out. I suggest that enough be added for passage-money to and fro and for maintenance during the term. Surely this amount would not be missed from the late bequest, and further might be the means of bringing the best to the fore.

I am, Sir, &c.,
MONA.

"Advertiser" 20th Nov. 1897.

Fifteen candidates have entered for the Elder scholarship at the Royal College of Music, London, the subjects taken up being pianoforte, violin, and singing. As Mr. Lee Williams, the Royal College examiner, has to leave Adelaide on Monday next en route for New Zealand, the examination will be held tomorrow. The board of examiners consists of Professor Ives, Mr. Lee Williams, and Rev. Dr. Paton as representing the University Council.

Advertiser⁴ 20th Nov. 1897.

BROKEN HILL.

EXAMINATIONS IN MUSIC.

Broken Hill. November 19.

Professor Ives, of the University of Adelaide, and Mr. Lee Williams, representing the Associated Boards of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, arrived at Broken Hill this morning to conduct an examination in the practice of music at the Town Hall to-day. There were eight candidates, and the examination was held in connection with and under the direction of the Adelaide University. Professor Ives states that the results of the examination will be declared in about a week's time. Both gentlemen returned to Adelaide by to-night's express.

Register⁴ 8th Nov 1897.

THE CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.—The University of Adelaide, as was stated in Saturday's *Register*, has decided to found a Conservatorium of Music, at which all branches of the art are to be taught by competent teachers. Professor Ives is to be the Principal of the new institution, and applications for positions on the staff of Professors are to be called for immediately. The work of the Conservatorium is to begin in March next. The scheme, which is a comprehensive one, provides for the founding of free scholarships open to all music students in Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, the institution of an orchestra, the building of a large concert hall, the founding of a library of music, and the formation of various musical Societies. It will thus be seen that the late Sir Thomas Elder's handsome bequests to the University are likely to result in Adelaide becoming an important musical centre.