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gree upon those who have qualified as mining engineers and metallurgists. The University is now officially recognizing that there is truly such a thing as the science of agriculture.

The four subjects set down as forming the special course for students desirous of studying agriculture are chemistry, geology, agriculture, and viticulture with oenology. The programme is hardly so complete as it might be made, even within the limits of the existing facilities provided by the University, but it represents a good beginning. At Cambridge Part I. of the course for the diploma of Agricultural Science includes botany, chemistry, physiology, hygiene, entomology, geology, mechanics, with engineering and bookkeeping relative to the economies of the farm. In Part II. are included practical agriculture and surveying. The lectures now given at the Adelaide University on botany would be very helpful to some of those who would be seeking to secure the degree of Bachelor of Science on the agricultural side. Young men preparing to take up such occupations as fruit-growing and viticulture will be included in the classes devoted to rural studies, and a knowledge of structural botany and of entomology is desirable in their case. The Cambridge course includes physiology, with a view to enabling students to lay the foundation for veterinary science and a knowledge of live stock generally. Of course, it would be unwise to overload the curriculum, or to include in it any matter which is absolutely irrelevant; but it is hoped that those portions of the lectures on botany and on physiology which touch the practice of fruit-growing and live-stock farming may be available for students of science on the agricultural side of the University. At Cambridge non-members of the University may present themselves for examination in one or more of the subjects of study, and may receive certificates in the event of their being successful. Presumably in the University of Adelaide the regulations having reference to non-matriculated students will be sufficient in themselves to afford similar opportunities to those who have not passed the senior examination, or who do not intend to proceed to the taking of the degree of Bachelor of Science. Provision is made for those taking the full course to reside for a stated period in each year at Roseworthy College, and a fee of £26 is charged for the purpose of covering the cost of board and lodging as well as of instruction.

The "Varsity man" with a taste for amateur farming has long been a subject of more or less good-humoured ridicule in England. Many young sons of squires or sprigs of the nobility have been the cause of mirth among the tenants on their fathers' estates on account of the calm assurance with which they have assumed their perfect competence to become guides, philosophers, and friends to those who have been all their lives farming. The same foolish mistake is made by all sorts and conditions of men in every part of the world; and, as the Yankee Editor remarked, "Farming is like running a newspaper—most every one thinks he is born with the talent for it." Still the hard-and-fast distinction once drawn between booklearning and practical farming has done a great deal of harm. Even a proportion of the students who have received a special course of training in studies directly related to rural economy would never in any circumstances make good farmers. No one can take a fool, and by any mere process of education convert him into a wise man, nor can a sluggard be metamorphosed by a University into a pattern of diligence. Too many people mentally compare the learned

fool with the practical wise man, and jump to the conclusion that all learning and science must unfit a youth for the practical work of life; but the people of the most enlightened countries are rapidly learning to correct this absurd tendency to unfair comparison, and to value highly the man who possesses both scientific knowledge and practical experience. Illiterate and ignorant persons are seldom appointed as managers of mines or of extensive farming and other producing properties. There is no necessary conflict between science and practice, because the one is essentially the collected experience of the other, with the lessons derived from both. In a properly ordered course of instruction in the science of agriculture must be embodied the results of the experience not merely of one man, but of thousands who have made the subject a lifelong study. The student may be required—

in such a subject, for example, as agricultural chemistry—to go further back to first principles than would be practicable for the less educated farmer devoting his attention to simply one group of facts bearing on the enrichment of the soil; but all the added wealth of knowledge which he may be required to store is liable at any time to be drawn upon for reference owing to the opening of new branches of his subject by the progress of discovery. Most of the agriculturists and horticulturists of South Australia have been able to learn from their own experience the value of applied science in promoting the successful working of the land, and many desire that in the next generation a still further advance shall be made in truly scientific and practical farming. The University authorities deserve the gratitude of the public for supplying a means to this end.

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UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

A special meeting of the Senate was held at the University on Wednesday afternoon. The Warden, Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc., presided over a fair gathering, which included the Chancellor, the Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way, Bart, and the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Barlow.

On the motion of Dr. Barlow, seconded by Dr. Paton, chapter v. of the Statutes was repealed, and a new chapter substituted, the change effected relieving the Registrar from the duties of Librarian.

New regulations were submitted governing the conferring of the degree of D.Sc. They provided that a B.Sc. might take the doctor's degree on the submission of a thesis in some branch of science approved by the Faculty of Science, with the condition that the examiners might require the candidate to pass an examination in that branch of science from which the subject of his thesis was taken. The regulations were, on the motion of Professor Bragg, seconded by the Chancellor, adopted.

A draft form of the requirements for the examination for the diploma of Associate in Music was submitted and approved; also amended regulations for the conferring of the Elder Scholarships.

An addition to the regulations for the degree of B.Sc. was, on the motion of Professor Bragg, seconded by Dr. Torr, adopted. It provided for the instruction of teachers attending State schools and other students in agriculture.

Dr. Barlow moved a new set of resolutions concerning the commemoration of University alumni. The resolutions, which were seconded by the Chancellor and passed, had for their object the following:—That the Council might, subject to the concurrence of the Senate, commemorate after death any alumnus of the University who should have been a great benefactor thereof, or who should have achieved distinction in any career or subject, particularly in the performance of signal acts of courage in the course of duty, or in the cause of humanity; by eminent services to South Australia or the Empire; by signal acts of philanthropy; and by attaining eminence in science, literature, art, or any profession.

An alteration in the regulations governing the public examinations was moved by Professor Bragg. The rules provided that four grades of examinations should be held annually, namely, the Primary, Junior, Senior, and Higher Public, and on their adoption by the Senate all the previous rules connected with these subjects were rescinded. In the Preliminary Examination the student will in future be required to pass in not less than four of the ordinary school subjects, namely, English, arithmetic, geography, history, Greek, Latin, French, German, algebra, and geometry, and any candidate who fails in English arithmetic fails in the whole examination. For the Junior, five subjects are necessary; but in this case students may gain certificates in certain subjects which will hold good until they shall have passed all the subjects required by the regulations. The Senior Public regulations were an amplification of the rules for the examination below, but the Higher Public examination, it was explained, was the highest open to an outsider. A special feature is that the scholarships will be recommended for award to the most successful candidates in the examination. Special inducements are offered for students to specialize in the subjects in which they present themselves. The resolutions were carried.

Dr. Lendon moved:—"That a Select Committee of the Senate be appointed to consider and report upon the desirability of making arrangements whereby members of the Senate who are unable to attend the meetings may be enabled to vote at all elections."

Professor Bragg seconded the motion, which was carried. The following were appointed members of the committee:—The Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Barlow; the Clerk of the Senate, Mr. T. A. Czerer; Professor Bently, Mr. G. A. Sutherland, and Dr. Lendon.

SECONDARY EDUCATION AND EXAMINATIONS.

The abolition of the Preliminary Examination at the University will produce an important effect in modifying the instruction imparted in the secondary schools of South Australia. The step, which was finally sanctioned by the Senate at the special meeting on Wednesday, has been decided upon as the result of a conference between the Council and a number of leading teachers who are engaged in the work of secondary education. The idea of singling out two subjects, namely English and arithmetic, from the ordinary curriculum of a school or college and providing a University test in these two as a "preliminary" to the other public examinations has, whatever may have been its theoretical merits, worked out badly during the twelve years in which it has been tried. Not long after the Preliminary Examination was instituted, "The Register" voiced the experiences of many of the teachers by urging that the University should not attempt in this way to force into special prominence two particular subjects, and pointed out that in the strain and stress of competition the natural result of persistence in such a course would be to induce some schools to practically drop almost all other studies out of their programmes for certain classes. Since that time the evil which was then foreseen has become too obtrusively obvious to remain any longer without a remedy. In some schools the "Prelim. Class," as it is called, virtually signifies a division in which the pupils grind away at sums and grammar without any attempt being made to round off the education imparted by the addition of such branches as geography, history, languages, geometry, or algebra. In fact, it is now notorious that in certain schools, where the parents have to pay fairly high fees in order to get their sons and daughters instructed, the curriculum followed up to the Preliminary standard is hardly so liberal as that of the State schools, which are free. The mistake involved in this arrangement may be seen to be a serious one when it is remarked that the majority of those who pass the Preliminary Examination do not proceed any further in their school studies. At fifteen or sixteen years of age boys are taken away from school and sent to business, perhaps profoundly ignorant of the very subjects which would be of most advantage to them in their later life. In theory, the examination has been preliminary to University studies, but in practice, in a majority of instances, it has been terminal to the school work of the candidate, and as a final examination it is lopsided, illiberal, and in many other ways unsuitable.

The Primary Examination, which has been substituted for the Preliminary, includes as compulsory subjects elementary arithmetic and English, while the candidate must also pass in two of the optional subjects, which embrace the geography of the British Islands and Australasia, English history, Greek, Latin, French, German, algebra, and geometry. It is to be hoped that the standard in the two compulsory subjects will not be kept as high as it was in the old examination; otherwise the main purpose of the change will be to a large extent frustrated, the other branches being necessarily starved in order that English and arithmetic may receive nearly all the attention of the pupils. It is very desirable that parents should realize that the most valuable part of their children's education is that which is imparted after the age of, say, fourteen years; but any sudden addition to the minimum requirement for the first examination at the University will tend to discourage parents from giving their boys and girls a chance to pass it by remaining long enough at a secondary school. The demands at first should be such as might fairly be required from pupils of the same average age as are the candidates who have presented themselves with success for the Preliminary Examination. From that point the stages onwards to the Junior and the Senior Examinations—which have now been partly rearranged, the fees being reduced—are easy and natural. In course of time, no doubt, all these tests will be made stiffer as pupils are permitted to remain longer at school. The Higher Public Examination has been made to assume an altogether new form, being reserved for the testing of clever pupils who have done well at the Senior Public Examination, and who desire to try for the scholarships and prizes of—