

skull in another, a hand here, an arm there—all belonged at one time to some poor creature blessed by a mother's love and guarded by the tenderest maternal solicitude! But by such aids is medical science perfected for the incalculable good of the living, and in no Medical School in the world could there be less of an obtrusion of the ghastly specimens with which the student must necessarily familiarize himself. The old Magazine is used as a preparing-room, and the work done here, as in every other part of the establishment, is under the closest supervision. The tanks and slates are all of Mintaro slate, and some of them are of remarkable size and fineness of grain. Finally, in every way the Medical School of the Adelaide University is now provided with the means of illustrating the best medical instruction. What is needed is the £1,000 a year, for which that instruction can be made complete in every particular. That sum forthcoming, it will be possible for Adelaide to lead the medical student from the most elementary stage in medical knowledge to the highest.

---

*Register May 29<sup>th</sup> 1886.*

### THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

---

The Adelaide Medical School only acts now as feeder to other schools. The generous donors whose contributions sufficed to found the institution have not had enough imitators to make it a fully equipped educational body, and the consequence is that after pupils have completed two years' service here they are obliged to go to one of the other colonies or to Europe if they want to get a diploma or a degree. But it is not right that we should therefore undervalue our Medical School. The preparatory work in any undertaking is distinctly more important than any subsequent work, for on the due apprehension of the rudiments depends the right understanding of the method and practice. And therefore we should be well satisfied if a colony so small in population as

South Australia should aim merely at the beginnings, if it were the case that she could advantageously go no further. But this is not so. The generosity of our wealthy colonists is unbounded when once it has been ascertained that a good work is in need of funds. There may be few enough amongst us who are ready to begin an experiment, but there are many who are prepared and willing to support an undertaking which has been duly organized and is being judiciously managed.

If we desired to prove that the Adelaide Medical School is deserving of support on account of the quality of the instruction afforded, we need only record the names of the Professors employed. These are Dr. Stirling, Dr. Watson, and Dr. Rennie. Three better men in their particular lines could hardly be found in the colonies, and the University may well be congratulated upon her good fortune in finding such men to whom to entrust her Professorships in the medical science. It would be pleasant to be able to say that these gentlemen are thoroughly satisfied with the school to which they belong, and that they have more than enough work to do. Unfortunately we cannot say this, for the Professors have not enough work to do, and therefore they are not satisfied with the condition of affairs. It is very hard under any

circumstances for teachers to be obliged to train pupils only up to a certain standard and then to pass them over to others for further instruction and the finishing touches. The foundation of anything is after all the great thing, but it is the finished edifice which evokes [applause. And it is no wonder if the Professors in our Medical School should feel this sometimes, and should therefore desire to make the medical education offered by the University here complete in every particular.

One thing is plain enough, and that is that the additional funds cannot be expected from the State. There are those who think that South Australia ventured too early upon the field of University education, and who, whilst they admit that honourably here can be no going backward, will not hear of any extension of the range of particular scientific education as given by the University. There are others who, having regard to the Medical Schools at the Sydney and Melbourne Universities, think that Australia can well afford to dispense with a third institution. It will be enough, they urge, to leave to future years, when the population of these colonies has largely increased, and there are more openings for medical men, the creation in connection with the Adelaide University of a school having full power to grant degrees in medicine. There is much in this view of the case which recommends itself for favourable consideration. There is even some ground for fear lest the establishment of a Medical School here should tend to unduly augment the ranks of the profession. Is there really so great a demand for medical men in South Australia? Is there not rather a danger that to render easy access to the medical profession will be to inundate the colony with men whose degrees would be of little value outside the colony? In putting these points we have no desire to cast any reflection upon the character of the school here or of its Professors. The latter we know to be above reproach, and the former is bound to be good of its

kind. Our only wish is to give prominence to considerations which in the minds of many are conclusive against the granting of a further endowment by the State in aid of the establishment of a Medical School here. On the other hand, there are strong reasons why, having gone so far towards making provision for training medical students here, an effort should be made to go further and enable these students to obtain degrees which will be recognised at all events in the colony as a certificate of capacity to practise. So much of the machinery of a Medical School is already in existence here that it is a pity for the sake of a paltry £1,000 a year that the University should find itself debarred the opportunity of granting medical degrees. Private colonists may fairly be called upon to show their sense of the value of the work done by enlarging its scope. In doing so they will confer a boon on their poorer fellow-colonists by giving them an opportunity of learning their profession near home, and they would also materially add to the *kudos* and general usefulness of the University.

---