

Register March 27/85

UNIVERSITY EVENING CLASSES. — We notice with pleasure that the committee of the South Australian Literary Societies' Union are taking active steps in the matter of procuring the money requisite for the fitting conduct of the University evening lectures. They have sent out circulars asking for donations, and have made some practical suggestions with regard to the collection of subscriptions. All this is quite right. Unfortunately the richer men in our community have not responded to the demand made upon them so quickly as was generally expected. Sir Thomas Elder, indeed, came forward with his characteristic generosity and subscribed £1,000. His good advice that those interested in the movement should strike while the iron was hot has not been taken until now. The fact is that if people are suffered to forget the movement they will take no interest in it at all, and we feel persuaded that many who cannot indeed afford to contribute so magnificently as Sir Thomas Elder have only waited until they were given an opportunity of making what donations are in their power. It is well for the originators and supporters of the scheme to remember that it is not only, or even mainly, the richer men in the colony who are to be benefited by the proposed evening lectures. It is only fair indeed that they should be asked as citizens to help in a good work which will abundantly benefit their fellow-colonists. If we once get into the habit of expecting our wealthy citizens to do everything for us, we shall be doing them an injustice and ourselves a serious damage. For every one citizen who is prepared to come down with his hundreds we shall find hundreds who will contribute their units, and these hitherto have not been offered an opportunity of helping the movement. We trust that this new departure will be successful in procuring substantial help. Meanwhile it is satisfactory to find that the University authorities are setting to work in earnest. Advertisements have appeared in the daily papers for gentlemen willing to lecture in mathematics, elementary and advanced Latin, and in geology; and the Council will, we believe, shortly meet to decide upon the relative merits of the applicants for lectureships. From what we have heard we may safely say that there are good men applying.

We presume that the election of lecturers will be referred to a select committee of Professors and others, and we sincerely trust that these will perform a very important and somewhat thankless task in a satisfactory manner.

*Register March 31/85*

"Student" writes:—"Is it possible that the new Chair of Music does not meet with the approval of the officials of the University? There must surely be something wrong when applicants for information respecting the classes are met with the demand, 'What do you want to know?' uttered with an emphasis altogether at variance with the manner in which one would expect a lady to be addressed by a paid official, who is supposed to be a gentleman. At Monday's class there were not sufficient seats provided for pupils and no attendant to get them, and when Professor Ives wished to illustrate his lecture the key of the pianoforte could not be got. Will some member of the Senate see to this matter?"

*Register March 31/85*

**THE MUSIC CLASSES.**—Judging from the attendance on Monday afternoon there is every prospect of the classes for the study of music conducted by Professor Ives being a success. Most of the elements of success are at hand. We have the Professor, the room, the students, and the piano. Two or three other things, however, are required. It is desirable that there should be seats for those who attend, and it might perhaps be as well that the piano should be left unlocked, or that the Professor should be trusted with the key. A teacher of music

does sometimes want to use the piano for the purposes of illustration; and though in these days when we are living in dread of the Russians coming it is but natural to look upon every new-comer as a spy in the pay of the Russian Czar, yet we believe Professor Ives is able to produce ample credentials of the pacific character of his mission, and we are convinced that if he is trusted with the key of the piano no music that is in the least degree disloyal will ever be produced by him. Another small matter that is worth attention is that some little effort should be made to secure the comfort of those attending the classes, and to make them feel at home. Music students are not all of them accustomed to University ways, and a little encouragement at the outset from the University officials would not be out of place. We might also suggest that those who come to make enquiries of the University officials as to the course of study, &c., should be kindly received, otherwise they may take alarm if the entrance to the temple is made too forbidding. We have been led to make these remarks by the statements of "A Student" which appear in our correspondence columns, and which we have no reason to suppose are in the least degree exaggerated. In all seriousness we venture to urge upon the University authorities that they should do all they can to help Professor Ives in his work, and not through carelessness or indifference place any obstacle in the way. It is specially important that the question as to matriculation should be settled without delay. There are many who will be willing to attend the classes and work for the degree who will be debarred from doing so if they are required first of all to matriculate. However desirable it may be to enforce such a condition three or four years hence, it will be a most unwise thing to insist upon it at present. A correspondent signing himself "Cantab" takes exception to the view previously expressed by us that the matriculation examination should be dispensed with, or at least modified, and that in the meantime students should be admitted to the course for a degree without having matriculated. He says that at Cambridge candidates have to pass the previous examination. This is not strictly correct. They are required to pass either the previous examination or any one of three other examinations such as that of the "Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board." Prior to May, 1881, even

this condition was not required. But the special point to be observed is that this examination does not bar the entrance to the course. A student can study for it while he is studying music, and pass it at any time before going up for his final examination for the degree. In Adelaide University a candidate cannot even begin to study music unless he has previously matriculated, and to insist upon this rule would be a great mistake.

---