

With regard to the Hospital it must be admitted on all sides that there is room for improvement, whether in respect of the existing buildings or of the internal arrangements. But praiseworthy efforts are now being made to place the management upon a thoroughly satisfactory basis, and the question of erecting a new building is receiving attention. The one thing for which the Hospital is especially to be commended has been passed over by Dr. Stirling — possibly from feelings of modesty—and that is the admirable care and the profound skill brought to bear upon cases by the medical and surgical staff. The honorary physicians and surgeons, assisted by the house surgeons, devote as much time and attention to the patients in the Hospital as they could possibly devote to their private patients, and for this they deserve the thanks of the community.

It is in Dr. Stirling's third point that we feel the most interest. What is to be done about quacks? We referred to the question at some length three or four weeks ago from a deep sense of its importance to the public. For, it should be remembered, it is not so much the qualified medical men who suffer from the existence of quacks as the public—the unfortunate persons whose insides are filled with quack rubbish or whose broken legs and arms are badly set by audacious Nostradamuses. The physician or surgeon has to restore constitutions which have been weakened by the practice of pretentious impostors or to reset limbs which they have manipulated. The matter of unlicensed practitioners is wholly for the public to consider, but as the public is notoriously a bad judge in its own cause the State has appointed a Board of medical men to decide whether or not any would-be practitioner has given to any recognised School of Medicine a proof of his ability. Unfortunately the State has not in South Australia gone far enough. Dr. Stirling points out—as we have ourselves pointed out—the absolute inefficacy of the Medical Acts of this colony. "There is nothing now," he says, "to prevent the holders of certain degrees issued after a manifestly insufficient course of study from being admitted here on the official roll of qualified practitioners who would not be admitted in any of the other colonies."

A case in point is supplied by a recent proceeding before the Supreme Court in Queensland. There an order *nisi* was moved for calling upon the Medical Board to show cause why a writ of *mandamus* should not be issued ordering the Board to register a certain gentleman who is a medical graduate of an American University. The Chief Justice said he could do nothing, and dismissed the motion. Now, the Queensland Medical Board since 1884 have declined to register any American diploma whatsoever unless certified to by an examination either at the Sydney or Melbourne University, and doubtless the Act which gave them power to so decline was sufficient to make the motion mentioned above ineffectual. Why should not the South Australian Board have similar powers? If it had we should not now have so many more quacks than Queensland has. Until the public take the matter up—until they insist that death certificates must be signed only by qualified practitioners where such are accessible, and that the

post of public vaccinator, except under very special circumstances, is taken from unqualified men — the present unsatisfactory state of things will continue. If vaccination is an important operation it should be performed by qualified men; and though it may seem unkind to take from unqualified persons the work which they are best fitted to do—the signing of death certificates — we are bound to sink our regard for the individual in our zeal for the many. In their own interests the public should support the endeavours of the Medical Board to secure the registration of qualified men only. The endeavours of the Boards are founded, as Dr. Stirling says, “on the admittedly fair and reasonable grounds that while we do not desire to restrict people in their free choice of an attendant, we desire and claim that the law should at least make it possible for ignorant and thoughtless people to distinguish between the qualified and unqualified practitioner if they desire to do so.”

Register July 8th 1889.

THE TRADES HALL.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Sympathizing with the movement for a grant of land for the erection of a Trades Hall, I wish to point out that two sites are now available. 1. The first, and to my mind the best, is on North-terrace, between the gunshed and the University. There is a piece of land here having fully half an acre frontage, by a depth of say a couple of acres, which, though enclosed by the University, is not their property. They make no claim to it, and it would answer admirably. 2. A more central site could be obtained on the Local Court acre, with a frontage to either Victoria-square or King William-street. The Local Court itself occupies only a small portion of the acre, and standing back from the street space is reserved in front and on the western side for any future necessary enlargement. The rest of the acre is utilized for police stables and officekeeper's quarters, and portion let temporarily to a private individual for lawn tennis. The Civil Service Commission state that the stables should be removed, and there is no necessity for the officekeeper's quarters, which have been condemned by the municipal authorities. I have often thought that the Local Court acre might be more profitably and fully utilized than at present. If a Trades Hall worthy of the name were to be erected there it would be a great improvement.

I am, Sir, &c.,

C. C. KINGSTON.

Register 12.7.89.

MAJOR DANE AT THE UNIVERSITY.—On Thursday evening Major Dane delivered a lecture in the library at the University on “James A. Garfield, Second Martyred President of the United States,” before a large number of students.

Advertiser 12.7.89.

Major Dane delivered a lecture on “James A. Garfield, the second martyred President of the United States,” at the Adelaide University on Thursday evening. Invitations to hear the lecture were issued by the Chancellor (his Honor Chief Justice Way), and between 300 and 400 ladies and gentlemen were present. Major Dane's discourse on the hero of that interesting narrative, “From Log Cabin to White House,” is well known, and he was listened to with close attention from start to finish. The major will give two or three lectures in Mount Gambier, commencing on Saturday night, and from thence he will go to Victoria. He has collected a mass of material for his lectures on Australia, which he will deliver in the old country, and doubtless he will do much to turn the attention of those who would make desirable colonists to Australia.