

is doubtless true enough. But it was not the absence of these distinctions that made them great musicians, and for the ordinary man a degree is, if nothing better, a kind of hall mark of proficiency. It should be unnecessary to add that the sudden cessation of the musical studies in the University would be very damaging to the reputation of the institution and to the interests of our musical undergraduates. Just as we have had no hesitation in informing the world that we were the first colony to start a Musical Chair, so the world will not be deterred by delicate scruples from pointing out that South Australia was also the first colony to turn its Musical Chair and the occupant thereof out of doors. For the sake of our higher education, if not for the sake of our own credit, it behoves us to ensure the continuance of the musical education which has done so much good here. The time is very short and either steps should be immediately taken to secure the teaching or else the University should tell the present Professor that his services will not be required after the termination of his engagement. Whilst the continuance of the highest musical education in the colony is in this position—unsatisfactory to both teacher and students—the education in designing and painting is more popular than ever. From the return laid before the Public Library Board we learn that there were 532 candidates for certificates in different grades, and that of these 386 were successful. This is a large proportion of successful candidates, but we confess that we should be better satisfied with the result if the examiner were not also the teacher of the great bulk of those who go up for passes. In connection with the School of Design there has been started an Art Needlework Society. The objects of this organization are the production of art needlework from original designs executed by past and present students of the school, and the sale of the articles subject to a regular scale of charges. So far as these objects have reference to the encouragement of originality in design and excellence in treatment the Society should command a large share of public patronage. There are, we are assured, many of the students of design who are deserving of the utmost praise for their work, and those who were privileged to see the show yesterday speak highly of it. At the same time objection may be taken to the pecuniary part of the affair. The Governors of the Public Library have allowed a public building, placed temporarily under their control, to be used for the purposes of a private exhibition of articles which are for sale. They obtain the benefit of free advertisement, and of being brought more under the notice of the public than if they were displayed in shops. Ladies who seek to work for their living are deserving of very high praise, but it is questionable whether a public building should be devoted to their convenience, and the prestige of a State institution employed to ensure purchasers for their wares. This objection apart, great benefit is likely to accrue to the community from the existence of this Society, one of the aims of which is to afford opportunities to young women to secure the training necessary for enabling them to earn a livelihood.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of this Association was held at the Adelaide Hospital on Thursday evening. There was a large attendance, the President (Dr. Stirling) being in the chair.

The annual report, which was read, stated that during the past year the branch had given satisfactory evidence of its vitality and usefulness. In the annual report of last year the Council noted the failure of representation as to the threatened pollution of the water supply of the city, and the Council had now reasonable ground for reporting that the Hope Valley Reservoir was being actually contaminated by the drainage of its catchment area.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Dr. Cleland; Vice-President, Dr. J. A. G. Hamilton (Kapunda); Treasurer, Dr. Corbin; Secretary, Dr. Poulton; new members of the Council, Drs. Stirling, Giles, and Marten.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Dr. Stirling read an interesting paper, from which we make the following extracts:—

“While the structure of our hospital buildings leaves much to be desired according to our present ideas of hospital construction and sanitation, many alterations and undoubted improvements have been made of late. But still we must look forward to the time when it will be admitted that a new hospital means a wiser expenditure of public money than additions to palatial Parliament Buildings. That this idea is prevailing I think is evident from the fact that the new block, comprising an operating theatre and four small wards, for the accommodation of grave operation cases was readily approved by the Board of Management and speedily sanctioned by the Government. The new buildings have been designed with the view that they will still be available in any new entire structure that may be erected. So much for certain changes in the economy of the Adelaide Hospital, which, with the establishment of the country hospitals, must be important items in the medical history of our colony. I now come to the School of Medicine. Its work may be said to have begun by the appointment in the University of Professorships of anatomy and chemistry and a lectureship of physiology and Materia Medica in the beginning of 1885. Intended at first to supply only the medical education proper to the first two years, it was afterwards resolved, not without some opposition from medical as well as lay sources, to complete the curriculum, and the necessary lecturers were appointed from amongst resident medical practitioners. The school has now entered upon its fifth year of existence and numbers twenty-nine students, some of whom will doubtless receive degrees at the end of this, their final medical year. I may be challenged for venturing to offer criticism on an institution in the establishment and working of which I in common with several whom I address have had some share, but I hope it may be said at least that it has been the desire of those connected with the school to make it as creditable as possible. The duration of the curriculum of five years, short enough as it is, is longer than in some of the schools which we hold in good repute. The examinations are certainly pitched at a high standard, and the services of gentlemen connected with other schools are obtained in all the more important of them, so that the character of our work is known outside. Though the hospital from which the clinical opportunities are derived is not very large, yet it is larger than many where good work is done, and except in the matter of the class of accidents and diseases, which are so frequent in large manufacturing towns, it generally contains a good variety of cases. Above all things I think it may be claimed that the students here, both collectively and individually, receive both in book teaching and in clinical instruction an amount of personal attention which few of us ever received in our student days. The recent establishment of special departments has made it possible to give such instruction as modern requirements demand, and, save in the matter of midwifery, in which, owing to existing arrangements, a difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a sufficient number available for attendance by the students, it has seemed to me that the school is working smoothly enough at the present time. Its greatest want is undoubtedly a separate Professorship of Pathology, who should also be qualified to undertake those bacteriological investigations which are so bound up with the modern ideas of infective processes. I trust that before long the University will find itself in a position to make such an appointment, the want of which is experienced beyond the limits of the school. There are doubtless those who still look upon the Medical School as unnecessary and premature, but I think the necessity is shown by the number of students applying for admission, many of whom would certainly have never been able to follow the bent of their inclinations but for the facilities which have been afforded here. The charge of prematurity has been made against many new but successful undertakings, and is difficult to