

ment for improving the status of women has received practical encouragement in this colony, which has taken the lead in several matters. It is to our credit that we are the first Australian colony in which a lady who has studied for and received her degree in the province has been appointed to such a responsible position as House Surgeon to the Children's Hospital.

Register. 6. Feb. 1892.

A LADY DOCTOR AT THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.—The Board of Management of the Children's Hospital, North Adelaide, on Thursday appointed a lady to the position of House Surgeon to that institution. Dr. Hope, the present officer, is resigning his position, and the Board received two applications for the post—one from a gentleman and the other from Dr. Laura Fowler. The latter presented a diploma and certificates from the Adelaide University of a first-class character; and quite outside any inclination of the members of the Board to favour the idea of a lady being placed in charge of the Hospital, her testimonials were so good that the Board gave her the appointment. She will begin her duties at the end of the present month. Dr. Fowler is the younger daughter of Mr. G. S. Fowler. Six years ago she decided to matriculate, and, although only having three months to study some special subjects, she (coached by Miss Martin, of Norwood) worked energetically, and won the second place that year. Then she decided to pursue the science of medicine, and, although the only lady student among several gentlemen, her enthusiasm in the work, combined with perseverance and genuine hard work, helped her to successfully accomplish her desire, and last year she was awarded the degree of M.B. Dr. Fowler some time ago occupied the position of *locum tenens* at the Children's Hospital for a fortnight during the absence of the House Surgeon. We understand that a similar position has been already conferred in England on a lady in more than one instance, and notably in that of the late Miss Prideaux, in a Children's Hospital in London, who was promoted from a subordinate office to that of House Surgeon. She afterwards contracted diphtheria and died. At the new Hospital for Women in Marylebone-road, London, the medical work is carried on entirely by ladies as house physicians and surgeons and as students.

The Register.

ADELAIDE: MONDAY, FEB. 22, 1892.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

During last year the University was placed under a double disability. It was deprived of the services of its Chancellor, who has been spending a well-earned holiday abroad, and it had for months to carry on operations in the absence, through serious illness, of the Registrar, who, after doing much good work for the institution, has found it necessary to retire. It speaks well for the management that in spite of these drawbacks the calendar for 1892, containing the customary interesting details of proceedings for the twelve months, has been got ready as early as usual. We could have wished that its pages had given more evidence of advancement than is to be found recorded in them, but the blame for any deficiency in this respect does not rest with the compilers, who have done their duty well. In point of fact there are few departments of the University in which material progress has been made.

Last year we had to notice the fact that the number of undergraduates had fallen from 122 to 118. For 1891 the decline was still greater, the total being only 110. Nor was the diminution in the ranks of candidates for degrees compensated for by an increase in non-graduating students, for the number under this heading, which in 1889 was 198 and in 1890 167, was in the year just closed only 136. Bearing in mind the extent to which the School of Mines helps to fill the classes of which cognizance is taken by the University this decrease is as noteworthy as it is unsatisfactory.

Turning to the separate branches of undergraduate study, we find little that is particularly cheering as to the past or very hopeful with regard to the future. There was a time when as a set-off to the limited extent to which the arts and science courses were taken advantage of the roll of legal and medical students was well filled, but this can hardly be said now. The number of those who commenced the course for the LL.B. degree in 1891 was only 5, as against 7 in 1890 and 12 in 1889. Of the undergraduates 3 completed the first, 3 the second, and 8 the third year's course. This is a better record than in 1891, but, as in that year, only one student succeeded in passing first class. The total number of undergraduates studying for the degree was 24 as against 29 in the previous twelve months, but there was an increase from 7 to 1 in the total of non-graduating students seeking to obtain certificates enabling them to practise in the Supreme court. This advance is probably due to the regulation assented to in 1890, which renders it obligatory upon students for the LL.B. degree to pass part of the B.A. curriculum, and extending the course from three to four years. If this is the case the increase of non-graduating students cannot be viewed with unmixed satisfaction. The M.B. course attracted 7 new students in 1891 as against 3 in the preceding year, but the number of passes showed little general improvement, being for the first year 3, for the second 3, for the third 7, for the fourth 3, and for the fifth 5, as against 4, 10, 3, 5, and 2 for 1890. In the list of non-graduating students attending lectures in various medical subjects there was a marked falling off, the numbers being respectively 7 and 31. To what this extraordinary decrease is attributable is not explained.

It is gratifying to find that the applications of the University for recognition by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have been granted, but the Royal College of Surgeons and the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom have apparently not yet responded to requests to have the degrees in medicine of the local institution formally recognised. The Science Faculty still labours under the disadvantage of being only moderately patronised, for the new students for the year numbered only 4 as against 5 in 1890, while the passes were 3 for the first, 6 for the second, and 5 for the third year, as against 3, 3, and 6 in the previous twelve months. In the case of non-graduating students attending lectures upon scientific subjects there has been a serious decrease in every subject. The new series of lectures upon Electric Engineering has, however, been fairly well attended, the total number of students being 20. The Arts course