

An index to the educational tendency of the University is afforded by the table of agenda. The Senate is asked to approve of five series of regulations, four of which have reference to professional schools and one to the preliminary examination. This may be taken as indicating the fact, which is otherwise also patent enough, that the University is inclined to attach particular importance to special studies as against general culture. Of course the Council's apology would be to the effect that their action is influenced by public demand—that lawyers and doctors are in request, and that there is a very unremunerative market for graduates in Arts. The apology stands, if we admit that the highest educational body in the country is to follow public opinion, and not to guide it. For ourselves, we confess to a feeling of disappointment that greater inducements are not offered to attract lovers of knowledge as such. But the difficulty will right itself at no distant date when the colony will be overrun with graduates in law and medicine. Meanwhile these two schools, with the School of Music, attract large numbers of students, for whom the University must make every provision. The changes proposed to be made by the new regulations are not numerous so far as the preliminary examination and the medical and musical schools are concerned. A kind of supplementary preliminary examination is to be held in March, presumably for the purpose of giving unsuccessful candidates another chance. Three of the regulations for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine are amended—the fourth, by fixing the vacation between the first and second terms instead of giving a week during the first

session; the thirteenth, by relieving students in their fourth year from attending a course of lectures on obstetrics "during the whole of the academical year;" and the fifteenth, by requiring this attendance of students in their fifth year. It is perhaps worth while to enquire with regard to the last clause of this regulation — which requires students "to receive instruction in vaccination from some legally qualified practitioner approved by the Council"—whether the policemen in the country districts who are public vaccinators are held by the Council to be legally qualified. The amended regulation of public examinations in music merely adds the words "or elsewhere" to the table of fees to be paid by "candidates presenting themselves for examination at Adelaide."

The amended regulations concerning the law school are more important by far. They make the course extend over four years instead of three as at present, and require of students that they shall pass the annual examination and one at least of the two term examinations proper to each year, instead of one examination only. The curriculum is changed in several respects, and in some cases the fees are doubled. The object is doubtless to enhance the value of the degrees, and is therefore worthy of support. No greater mistake could possibly be made than to adopt a course of action which would tend to depreciate the degrees of a young University, and if the Council knows that the present curriculum is not sufficiently extensive it has done right in enlarging it. A little explanation, however, might be forthcoming if only in the

interests of the present holders of degrees in law. The Agenda - paper contains very slight reference to the burning questions which have lately occupied the attention of many members of the University. In a careful letter the Council politely informs the Senate that it cannot accede to any of the late requests. It would not be to the interests of the University that the attendances and particulars of the voting of members of the Council should be given. "While extremely anxious to meet if they can the wishes of the Senate, the Council find with regret that they are unable to reach the conclusions with regard to the conduct of the Council or the tenure of professorships, which have commended themselves to the judgment of the Senate." The extreme anxiety and regret which this letter contain are most instructive, and it may be supposed that they extend also to the Council's refusal to allow certain members of the Senate to make themselves acquainted with the proceedings of the Council. It would, of course, be painful for the Senate to add to the Council's anxiety and regret, but we are nevertheless somewhat surprised to notice that motions condemning the autocratic conduct of affairs are not to be found on the paper of agenda. The first blow, however, has been struck with a measure of success, and it will surely be followed up at no distant date.

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