

and satisfactory results is shown in the achievements of the students who have attended his lectures at the University, as well as of those who, taught by other masters outside, have taken honors in the first series of public examinations in music held in the colonies.

We notice that two candidates for the Mus. Bac. degree have gone up in their third year and obtained second-class, while three have acquired third-class honors. Four candidates for the second year and eight candidates for the first year are variously placed on the honors list; and the increase in numbers for the first year proves the additional interest that is being taken in the Mus. Bac. degree, which, by-the-way, is very difficult to obtain. The success of the experiment of holding public examinations in music must be alike gratifying to the professor and to the University Council, as it is from the ranks of these candidates that aspirants for the honors of a degree may be expected to come in future years, and that the classes at the University will be proportionately enlarged. Local examinations in the theory of music were held in the month of November at Adelaide, Crystal Brook, Mount Barker, and Kadina. Professor Ives, in his report to the Board of Musical Studies, which is published elsewhere, says the result of the junior examination in theory was a pleasant surprise to him, as one of the candidates gained the maximum number of marks, and others were very high up on the list. In the practice of music also great proficiency was shown by some of the candidates, although, as the professor points out, there were errors of style in playing amongst some of the pupils which they can with perseverance and study overcome in the future. Many will endorse the remark of Professor Ives that "the University are to be warmly congratulated on the signal success with which the inauguration of this new scheme of public examinations in music has been attended," and it is to be hoped that the pupils and their teachers will persevere in the desire to achieve yet higher results, and that Professor Ives will be supported in his efforts to "encourage the study of and develop a taste for good music in places beyond the immediate influence of the University School of Music."

Register December 15 1887

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS AND EXAMINERS.

The series of examinations taken in hand by the University of Adelaide are for this year at an end, and the results have been laid before the public. Special interest attaches to some of these owing to the novelties which have been introduced into the mode of operations, and we believe the general verdict will be that the experiments tried have been fairly successful. The number of students sent up for both junior and senior examinations has been large, and Professor Ives is to be congratulated upon the success of his efforts in the direction of creating increased interest in musical studies. There are points in which, in the interests of the University and of higher education generally, one could have wished to see a different state of things from that which obtains. It would, for instance, be a source of satisfaction if there was a better prospect for the filling of the lists of undergraduates, especially for the arts course. The number of students who enter for degrees is still exceedingly small, so that the machinery of the University is not being turned to anything like such general account as, considering its costliness and the valuable service it is capable of rendering to the community, it should be. The question of how to bring about a more satisfactory state of things in this respect is one that should engage the attention of the University authorities. They have done much in the way of popularizing the institution and utilizing it as a means of testing the training imparted in the schools and Colleges, but it is essential to its filling its proper place in the colony that it should have associated with it an army of undergraduates instead of the few stragglers which it now attracts into its folds. Then again there is room for improvement in the method of carrying out the junior and senior examinations. The nature of the arithmetic questions put to candidates for the former called forth severe criticism, and the exceptional stiffness of some of the papers for the senior examination has not escaped remark. This is a point worthy of the attention of the Council, and it is to be hoped it will not be overlooked.

It is only fair to examiners here to say that the faults chargeable against them are mild as compared with blunders committed in connection with the University of Melbourne, which has produced a profound sensation in academical and other circles in the neighbouring colony. These examiners are being rudely reproved by the Council and the Council are being still more roundly rated by the Press, while one of the students in particular, in writing to the *Argus*, exhibits a judicial impartiality, rare in those of unripe years, in administering his reproofs to both Council and examiner in about equal proportions. Professor McCoy, by this critic's statement, enjoys the reputation of deciding to pluck or to pass the candidates according as their numbers are odd or even, though others are of opinion that he determines the result by the weight of the papers. The Professor's own statement in the case of No. 492, a rejected candidate, was that his papers gave "the impression of ignorance, which they did not bear when read a second time," and so, after omitting