

University. Here are 13 fully endowed Chairs, all occupied but one, and a number of Lectureships which practically amount to Chairs, not to mention the work done by assistants, etc. Then we have the Evening Classes which ought to be extended, if possible, because they reach a class that cannot attend lectures during the day; and, lastly, the extension system and the "outside examinations," carry the University to distant parts of the land, and make its influence felt, not only in our public and private schools, but in commercial and social centres. Sir WILLIAM MANNING hopes to live to see Agriculture and Music fully taught by the University; the former subject must be taught somehow if we are to thrive as a people, but whether a Chair in Sydney

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At the recent celebration, "Commemoration Day," in the University, some students seemed to forget for a time the dignity of University life. We should be sorry to repress unduly the boisterous humour of young men, but it is their duty to remember that culture is concerned. The University is supposed to be the centre of SWEETNESS, as well as light, and young men should ever keep this in view. The "sweeter manners" and "purer laws," for which the poet prays, ought to come to the whole community through the influence of education. We ought not only to be proud of our University as a noble centre of learning, but also proud of it as a centre of nobility of life and graciousness of manners. Having said

this much we must really join with all who care for innocent mirth in our appreciation of the "songs" sung by the Sydney students on Commemoration Day. Our very mirth must take its colour from our position in life, and so they rightly give us a Latin song—in which they call upon all to rejoice, *Gaudeamus igitur*. Their amusement seems great over the new "School of Law," but we hope for the sake of the distinguished Doctor of Law who is coming to be the head of this department—a native of the colony—that the closing verse is too pessimistic in its outlook:—

"On legal feast, this year at least,
The students ought to thrive;
One Professor and Lecturers four,
Amount to teachers five;
Perhaps they'll teach two students each—
Perhaps a fraction over;
And you'll agree, I think, with me,
They'll find themselves in clover."

The following verses from the "Students' Chorus" may not be exquisite poetry, but doubtless they are mirth-producing:—

"We each can blow our own trumpet,
Though we're rather deficient in brass:
For the drum, there are plenty to thump it,
And our belles you could hardly surpass.

We have ladies to sing the soprano,
And the bass is taken by Jones;
We've an organ in place of piano,
And the medical chaps bring the bones."

Register 26 April 1890.

Conferring
Degrees

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE. — A meeting was held on Friday afternoon, April 25, in the Library of the University, Adelaide, for the purpose of conferring degrees upon candidate bachelors of the University and graduates of other Universities. There was a good attendance, consisting largely of ladies. Academic robes were worn by the graduates present. The Chancellor (Hon. S. J. Way) presided, and on the platform also were the Vice-Chancellor (Archdeacon Farr), the Warden of the Senate (Mr. F. Chapple), and the Registrar (Mr. W. Tyas). Messrs. Edward Krskine Cleland, Samuel James Mitchell, and Arthur Jennings Price were admitted to the LL.B. degree, and Mr. William Somerville Milne, M.A., Oxford, was admitted *ad eundem gradum*.

Register 3rd May 1890.

HIGHER EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Some time ago on behalf of the Woman's Suffrage League questions were addressed to the Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney with reference to the relation of women to those institutions. Since then similar questions have been addressed to the University of New Zealand. The following has been received from Mr. W. M. Maskell, of Wellington, who is the Registrar:—

1. The date of the admission of women as students? From the inception of the University in 1871 no distinction was made in educational matters between men and women. The University of New Zealand was the first in the world in modern times to abolish the distinction. The University of Adelaide followed suit five years later.

2. Who was the first woman to graduate, and in what course? Kate Milligan Edger gained the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1877, and proceeded to the degree of M.A. in 1882. She was the first modern woman graduate in the world.

3. How many women have graduated, and in what courses? 37 altogether, up to 1889. The graduates of 1890 are not as yet definitely known. All these are graduates in arts; 22 have taken the degree of B.A. only; 15 have proceeded to the degree of M.A., and of these 14 have taken honours.

4. Have women done equally well with men in proportion to numbers? Certainly.

5. How many women students are now in the University? Owing to the nature of the constitution of the University it is not easy to answer this question positively. Approximately about 160 women are pursuing their University course in New Zealand. The total number of undergraduates in the University in January, 1890, men and women, was 960.

6. There are no special scholarships for women, but all scholarships, prizes, and degrees are open equally to men and women, and the fees are the same for women as for men.

7. Are women legally competent to be professors and lecturers? As far as I know there is nothing to prevent them. Women graduates are members of the Court of Convocation of the University, and sit and vote as such; and they might be members of the Senate also.

From the above it appears that a large number of women in New Zealand seek the highest mental culture. I think that 160—their present number of women undergraduates—is as large as the total of the three Australian Universities, so that in proportion to number of population in the matter of University training the women of New Zealand surpass those of Australia; and vastly surpass the women of Europe, and so far as I can ascertain they also surpass the women of the United States. In this particular the women of New Zealand march in front of the world. The experience of the University of New Zealand agrees with the experience of the Universities of Australia in that the New Zealanders find the women quite equal to the men in University studies. The large number of women attending the University in New Zealand may be partly accounted for by the long period during which University instruction and honours have been accessible to the women of that favoured land. Australia has lagged behind her younger sisters, for not till a later date did the Universities of this continent open their portals to women. There are signs that within a few years there will be a far larger proportion of women in the Australian Universities. There has been a great increase of women students this year in Sydney and Melbourne. It would be a good thing if it became the fashion for the daughters of the wealthy to graduate at the Universities. It is not such destructive work as the pursuits of gay and fashionable life. The work woman is doing in the Universities shows that she is mentally competent to vote for members of Parliament.

I am, Sir, &c.,

J. C. KIRBY.