

upon these figures, because we take the ground that education is too high and too important a factor in the life and growth of States to be measured by pounds, shillings, and pence. The University is not a commercial speculation or trade investment. Its dividends are not estimated by money values. They come out in very different guise, in the higher culture, the higher tone, the less sordid spirit, diffused through the community.

The report refers to the congregation of the 11th May, when amongst others Dr. Barry was admitted to an *ad eundem* degree. We have more than once dwelt upon the special work which a University is called to do in a plutocratic age. And those who were present on the occasion referred to will remember the grave and forcible words with which the late Bishop of Sydney dwelt upon the peculiar function of an Australian University, to raise the standard of culture and refinement against the tawdry banners of that vulgar ostentation which is the child of sudden wealth. There is truth and wisdom in the familiar couplet,

Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes  
Emollit morès nec sinit esse feros.

In looking over the examination lists it is impossible to help being struck with what the vice-chancellor, Dr. Farr, called attention to in his commemoration address. The utilitarian spirit comes strongly out in the numbers who devote themselves to the faculties of law and of medicine, and to the comparatively few who take up the arts course. Everyone knows the story of the mathematician who could see no beauty in "Paradise Lost" because it proved nothing. And there can be no more one-sided education than that of the man who is conversant with one subject only, and that a professional one. Lord Selborne, as great as a scholar as a Lord Chancellor, has denounced the cramping effect of a study of law unrelieved by that literary education which the Scotch have so aptly termed the Humanities, and which is known to Oxford as "*Literæ humaniores*." And the medical man, especially he whose chief sphere is the operating-room, perhaps more than the lawyer needs the refining and expanding influence of higher education to counteract an undoubted tendency to materialism. We can conceive nothing more pernicious than the divorce between "*Literæ humaniores*" and law and medicine, and it is to be hoped that the University will do all it can to unite them.

Some 260 pages of the Calendar are devoted to examination papers set in the various schools and examinations. It is a moot question whether more harm than good is not done by such publication. To a certain extent they make for the crammer and his merry men. There is a limit to the range of the subjects and of the books. And giving every credit to the bowling powers of examiners, to borrow a simile very much in evidence a year ago, there must be a limit to the possibilities of length, pitch, break, and pace. In other words, if a crammer has a complete collection of examination-papers he must pretty well know every question possible to be asked. And if he knows every possible question he will very soon know every possible answer. For our own part we view examinations as necessities of education, and not necessary evils by any means, if properly conducted, and as the only known method of testing knowledge and thought. And we believe the only way to put University examinations, and we are speaking of those to which candidates not

asset belonging to the University go up, on a proper basis, is to examine in subjects and branches of knowledge or literature, and not in text books. From the time when the University prescribes or recommends a specific text book, the reign of cram begins, and schoolmasters and schoolmistresses raise a howl of indignation, to say nothing of parents and candidates, if questions are set to test it may be the real knowledge of the examinees, and whether they have been taught together inferences from their subject, which possibly lie outside the covers of the text book, though perfectly germane to the subject of examination. Information is one thing and knowledge is another. And the work which the University can do and ought to do for the schools, whether great endowed institutions like St. Peter's and Prince Alfred or private establishments, is to test thoroughness, and set its seal only upon that real knowledge which does not evaporate when the last question is answered.

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*Advertiser February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1890.*

"Aulus" writes in the *Australasian*:—  
 "Who is that young fellow with the spectacles and intellectual head who is following the speeches of the South Australian delegates so closely?" asked one at the conference. "Young fellow? Why, it is the Chief Justice of South Australia; and he is the senior Chief Justice; and the oldest judge but one in Australia."  
 "Well, he ought to look the character a little more. I should suggest a false grey beard and a white wig."

*Medical Students  
 of the Asylums*

*Advertiser March 12 1890*

Some correspondence has taken place between the Government and the University authorities regarding the appointment of a chemical assistant at our lunatic asylums. On September 23 the Chief Secretary wrote to the Chancellor of the University as follows:—"It has been suggested that the valuable field for the study of mental pathology afforded by the Adelaide and Parkside Asylums might be rendered further available for advanced students and recent graduates in medicine at the University of Adelaide. An arrangement might be made similar to that in relation to the Adelaide Hospital, whereby one or more recent graduates might hold office as resident medical physicians under whom students attending asylum practice might be organised as medical clerks. Should the council be of opinion that it is desirable to take steps in this direction there would be little difficulty in arriving at a scheme mutually advantageous to all concerned." On October 2 the registrar of the University wrote to the Chief Secretary as follows:—"I am directed to express to you the cordial thanks of my council for your very valuable suggestion, and to inform you that they will gladly avail themselves of it. Our council have referred your letter to the faculty of medicine with instructions to report thereon, and to devise a practical scheme for carrying your suggestion into effect." On October 29 the registrar again wrote:—"I have to inform you that my council at its meeting on Friday last received the following report from the faculty of medicine on the subject of your letter of September 23:—The faculty of medicine are of opinion that it is most desirable to adopt the suggestions of the Hon. the Chief Secretary, and in order to give them effect the faculty recommend—1. That the appointment suggested by the Chief Secretary should be