

Advertiser  
15th December 1899.

lowed a vigorous address by Professor Mitchell, in which, dwelling on the fact that his is a Chair of Philosophy as well as of Literature, he boldly took up the cause of the less popular branch of study. On quite recent occasions there have been utterances similarly valuable and interesting. Professor Bonyly was thoroughly at home in enlarging on the functions of the ideal University, and in setting forth the desirability of Chairs of History and of Modern Languages in Adelaide. Only twelve months ago Professor Selmond was heard with mingled feelings when he pleaded for the conservation of intellectual interests, when he condemned alike the tranquil but lazy lotos-eater, the money-grubber guided alone by considerations of practical profit, and the erudite mummy, the typical University Don, deficient in human interest and human emotions. Nothing could have been more impressive than his appeal to each newly-fledged graduate to find time for some intellectual work, to choose out a subject, and become expert in it while the freshness and vigor of youth are still his own. The loss of such addresses as these is unfortunate. Is it to be taken as a further step in the popularising of the function? If so, the constant increase in the number of those attending shows it to be unnecessary. On some occasions in past years the orations were highly technical, but latterly—with the possible exception of that of Dr. Stirling—they have been of a nature to appeal even to the unlearned (if that be considered desirable), while losing nothing of their immediate and special value. If there is an unwillingness to expose the speaker again to risk of interruption and insult, it would seem that either party is to be suppressed it should not be the orator. And to the argument that addresses on University topics might be more fittingly delivered on another occasion, there is the obvious reply that such an audience would not then be present; that no other such opportunity presents itself for strengthening the mutual bonds that should exist between the University and the general public.

There is interesting evidence of a conflict between the academic and the popular ideal in the discussion now proceeding in Council and Senate as to the inclusion of Greek in the Arts course. This particular degree is not now much sought after, the undoubted reason being that its subjects are not those which will help the student to make his living in after-life. However, much this state of things may be regretted, it is impossible to quarrel with the frame of mind that leads to it, since there is in this country an absence of that leisured and independent class which forms the mainstay of Oxford and Cambridge. The present intention is to popularise the Arts course by dropping from it that stumbling-block, the study of Greek, and it seems probable that a compromise will do no more than to make it optional. In which case the language of Homer and of Aeschylus is likely to be neglected. Arguments on either side are not wanting. Greek has not the enduring value of Latin, which forms the principal base of at least three modern languages. But it is the key to a great literature. Yet not one man in a thousand, even of those who are said to learn Greek, ever masters it so thoroughly as really to enter into the spirit of that literature. The rest only attain to a laborious translating of what others have translated in a masterly manner long ago. Still—and the point seems likely to be overlooked—a smattering of Greek is really valuable in helping a man to understand his own language, scientific phraseology in particular being almost entirely drawn from that source. The question is a nice one, and the University in its wisdom may be left to settle it. This is a highly practical community, which reverences the student, but has to face the intimate and pressing necessity of making its own living.

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Advertiser 14th Dec. 99.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.  
To the Editor.  
Sir—Persons interested in the senior and junior will probably be somewhat surprised if they compare the pass lists appearing in "The Advertiser" of December 14, 1899, with those in the issue of 13th inst., for they will find that at least half a dozen of those who passed recently with

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THE UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.  
This afternoon the University commemoration will be held, and candidate bachelors of the institution, as well as graduates of other universities, will be admitted to degrees. Admission will be by ticket only, and shortly after 3 o'clock the deans of the faculties will present the various candidates to the Chancellor, who will confer the honors won as follows:—M.A. degree, William Charles Annells, B.A.; Albert Sydney Devenish, B.A. B.A. degree—Caroline Clark, Annie Lane, Frank Sewell, Walter Franz Wehrstedt. B.Sc. degree—Isaac Herbert Boas, May Burgess, Cuthbert Lilywhite, Ernest Gladstone Mitton, Ellen Lawson Walker, Bertram Whittington. The graduates of other universities who are to be admitted ad eundem gradum are:—Charles Wolfe Hamilton, M.D., University of Edinburgh; Alexander Disney Leith Napier, M.D., University of Aberdeen; Percival Bollen, M.D., University of Toronto; John Henderson Henderson, M.B., University of Glasgow; Arthur Geoffrey Owen, M.B., Ch.B., University of Melbourne; Herbert Henry Ernest Russell, M.B., Ch.B., University of Melbourne. Other successful students to be presented are the Stow prizemen, Richard William Bennett and Oswald Hunter; the Dr. Davies Thomas scholar, Francis Seavington Stuckey (student in medicine of the third year); the John Howard Clark scholar, Spencer Churchward; the Roby Fletcher scholar, Spencer Churchward; and the winner of the Sheridan essay prize, Richard William Bennett.

Register 15th December 1899.

THE STUDY OF GREEK.  
To the Editor.  
Sir—The Senate of the University will meet this afternoon to discuss the question of compulsory Greek for the B.A. degree. As a graduate of a sister University and a non-combatant, I beg that you will allow me to set out the importance of the point at issue and the need of a strong expression of opinion to back up the Senate's previous vote. To banish compulsory Greek from the University will mean nothing more or less, whatever means be devised to bolster it up, than the practical banishment of Greek from the colony. That this step would be a false one is shown—apart from the fact that the Adelaide B.A. degree will be infinitely lowered, as compared, for example, with the Melbourne degree—by the following propositions:—1. The study of Greek has from the days of Cicero been held essential to a liberal or "humane" education. 2. A degree in arts is, to say the least, misnamed without some study of the people among whom the arts were so wonderfully developed. 3. Greek is in no sense a dead language, as is urged, exercising as it does a profound influence over all the best modern thought. 4. The Greek literature gives up the fountain-head of most modern philosophy, political science, history, poetry, and oratory. 5. The leading scientists of the day assert that, even for the study of physical science, no training of the mind is so valuable as that gained by even an elementary study of the Greek language. 6. The remarkable similarity in many ways of the circumstances of Australian life to those of ancient Greece suggest the value of an infusion of Hellenism. 7. Greek is not the difficult language it is often imagined, but can be easily and quickly acquired by any capable person. 8. The inclusion of obligatory Greek in the arts degree will keep, at all events, one course of study free from any instincts but those of learning for learning's sake. 9. The present issue involves the entire future of South Australian education, and therefore of the national character. 10. It is a false policy to allow temporary considerations of any nature to interfere with a principle of sound learning.  
I am, Sir, &c.,  
A MELBOURNE GRADUATE.

"Reg." 13th Dec. 1899.

UNIVERSITY LANDS.  
Adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. PEAKE—"That in the opinion of this House negotiations should be opened by the Government with The Adelaide University, with a view to the surrender by the University to the Government of the lands dedicated to the University, on terms to be agreed upon; to which Mr. SOLOMON had moved the following amendment, viz.:—"To add to the question the words 'any such agreement to be subject to ratification by Parliament.'"  
Mr. PEAKE, in reply, was prepared to accept the amendment moved by Mr. Solomon. No objection had been urged to the motion which called for any reply, and therefore he would not detain the House.  
Amendment agreed to.  
Motion as amended carried.

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16th Dec. 1899.

UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.  
THE STUDENTS' PROGRAMME.  
Varsity students are always enthusiastic, but if there is one occasion more than another when they let themselves go it is on Commemoration day. Youth must have its fling, and it is no use trying to suppress hearty, happy undergraduates. This year it came to the ears of the students that a certain censorship was to be exercised over their voluntary entertainment. They were informed that they would not be allowed to have a piano in the back of the library to accompany them in their musical selections. Two of the students went off post haste to the Chancellor on Friday morning and asked to be allowed to have the piano on the condition that they behaved themselves. Sir Samuel said he would make no terms, but promised to bring the request before the Council and let the students have an answer by 2 o'clock. The library was crowded with distinguished and fashionable folk when a favourable answer was communicated to the "young bloods," and they immediately ran the instrument from the music room down to their own end of the hall. The University was locked till after 2, but the students put one of their number through a window, and he, opening the back door, let the others in to Alma Mater. There were not many appointed decorations this year. The only article that excited amusement was a diminutive toy black dog, which was suspended from the gasjet immediately over the Chancellor's chair. From 2.15 p.m. to 3 p.m. the students, armed with coozoes, penny whistles, rattles, and other musical and unmusical instruments, sang such patriotic numbers as "Sons of the sea," "Soldiers of the Queen," and "Rule Britannia." Three cheers for General Buller were called for, and given with great heartiness. When the Right Hon. C. C. Kingston, radiantly gowned in scarlet, arrived with the Minister of Education, Hon. E. L. Batchelor, the students, remembering their verse of last year, when the then Premier was admitted D.C.L. ad eundem gradum, sang again—  
He happened to be there, he happened to be there;  
In Oxford town he got the gown,  
Which brings to him this great renown—  
He's D.C.L. to-day, we do declare,  
Just because, because he happened to be there.

Mr. Kingston smiled benignly on the undergrads. Knowing what a lover the ex-Premier is of harmony, the students cried out in chorus, "Come and help us, Charley; do give us a hand, Charley." Three cheers were given for Mr. Solomon, and another three for Dr. Hornabrook. When Dr. Napier appeared the students shouted out to the doorkeeper, "Why did you let him in?" "How's your right valve?" and "Why not sit with Charley?" The members of the Senate and Council, wearing the academic costume proper to their respective degrees and offices, arrived at 3 o'clock, and they were heralded with the "Dead March" in "Saul." The students printed programmes, copies of which were distributed in the room, and contained the following:—"The Chancellor, Council, and Senate are requested not to join too noisily in the refrains, and to watch the conductor, and, for goodness sake, to keep time. The University Orchestra (not Conservatory), under the baton of Professor B. Hives, has been engaged specially for this occasion, at considerable expense and risk. The soloists have been recently imported (duty paid), and will probably never appear again. Every candidate, with the exception of Dr. Napier, was received with a verse, the hospital doctor taking his degree ad eundem gradum in solemn silence. The medical candidates were not presented by the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Lendon, but by Dr. Barlow. The undergrads were not nearly as noisy as last year, and their entertainment on the whole was hardly as spontaneous and smart as it has been in the past. At one time the Chancellor had to rebuke his young friends, as follows:—"May I ask my young friends to consider whether it is quite courteous when the Dean of the Faculty of Arts is presenting a candidate to burst into that musical accompaniment. ('Oh!') If I may be heard may I suggest that you keep the musical accompaniment until the degree is conferred." When Miss Walker was being presented the singing broke out before the degree was conferred, and the Chancellor, who was rather ruffled, remarked, warmly, "You quite forget that you are keeping a lady waiting." "Quite," retorted one of those at the back. When the degrees and prizes were all conferred the Chancellor rose and said—"Ladies and Gentlemen—I will ask you to allow the members of the Council and Senate to retire first, as they have business in another part of the building. I daresay during the short interval the students will only be too ready to afford you such musical consolation as you desire. And now 'Discolymus hanc convocationem.' The students' programme had it 'Discolymus in perspirationem.' One of the principal innovations in connection with the proceedings was the absence of the annual address. The undergrads explained it thus:—"Owing to the numerous requests from former victims the students have decided to do away with the oration."  
Some of the best verses were:—  
Mr. ALBERT SIDNEY DEVENISH, B.A., M.A.  
(Air—"Gelsa.")  
Good old Devenish, he no longer sad,  
He has passed through at last,  
Well, well, glad,  
Soon to China he go back,  
Pleacher, singer, play,  
Malice pleacher Chinese girl,  
Both will be M.A.  
(Air—"The Holy City.")  
O Devenish! O Devenish,  
Once more the Chinese call,  
Return to us, O Devenish,  
Bring the M.A. and all.  
Mr. WALTER FRANZ WEHRSTEDT, B.A.  
(Air—"Mary had a little lamb.")  
Oh, Bessy had a little lamb, little lamb,  
Who now has passed his last exam., last exam!  
For if the prior lamb had to cram,  
And now he cries B.A. B.A.  
Hurrah for Bessy,  
Hurrah for his lamb,  
Hurrah for the Undergrad,  
Who didn't care a little bit,  
Peeling out the war-cry of freedom.