

The West Austr.
Feb 28th 1907.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN V. WEST AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARS.

THE "REGISTER'S" COMMENTS.

REPLY BY BISHOP RILEY.

Speaking at the distribution of certificates in connection with the Adelaide University examinations at the Town Hall yesterday, Bishop Riley referred to the telegraphed summary which appeared in yesterday's "West Australian" of an article in the South Australian "Register" attributing the success of Western Australian candidates in the Adelaide University examination to the fact that Western Australian boys went in for the examinations more than once. Personally, he said, he could not see why a boy should not go in for an examination as many times as he liked. A lad might go up one year and find out how little he knew in some subjects, and then he would go up again. Why should he not? The question arose as to the reason that Western Australian boys went in for the examination when they were over age. The reason was that upon the examination the Rhodes scholarships, etc., depended, and the boys had to go in for them if they aspired to gaining a scholarship. In South Australia, when a boy was 18 years of age and had passed his examinations, he could read for the University. But here in Western Australia they had no University to look to. The facts were not so bad if statistics were resorted to. In 1904, for instance, in the senior examination honours list, there were six candidates over-age in Western Australia and eight in South Australia, while there were seven candidates under age in Western Australia and 22 in South Australia. So that South Australia was the greater culprit in that respect. He expressed the appreciation of the Western Australian University Committee, for the assistance rendered by the Adelaide University, but pointed out at the same time that they were paying for what they were receiving. The Education Department fees amounted to a considerable amount and the total examination fees paid recently amounted to £900 of which amount 75 per cent. went to the Adelaide University. The other 25 per cent. was refunded. If they had a university in Western Australia the amount of examination fees would go a long way towards the maintenance of a teacher.

Register 12th Mar '07

THE UNIVERSITY.

The first term of 1907 will begin at the University to-day. During the week supplementary degree and special senior public examinations will be held. Upon success in the latter a number of students are depending to qualify for enrolment as undergraduates. University lectures will be resumed on Monday next. Teaching at the Elder Conservatorium was begun last week.

Advertiser 12th Mar '07

THE UNIVERSITY TERM.

The University term begins to-day, and during the week students will enter their names and consult the professors with respect to their course of studies. Professor Ennis met the music students yesterday, Professor Naylor will meet the classical students to-day, and Professor Jethro Brown and the lecturers in law have arranged to meet the law students on Friday. Lectures will begin on Monday next.

Advertiser 12th Mar '07

PROFESSOR BRAGG AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the Council of the School of Mines and Industries, held on Monday, the president (Sir Langdon Bonython) said that since their last meeting a distinction had been conferred on one of their members—a distinction of such an important character that it should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. He referred, of course, to the fact that news had been received in Adelaide that Professor Bragg had been elected a fellow of the Royal Society. On behalf of the council he most warmly congratulated him. He had received the blue ribbon of the scientific world. The School of Mines was a scientific institution, and as such not only rejoiced in the honor of which the professor had been made the recipient, but felt that to some extent it shared it. The professor was the third fellow of the Royal Society to occupy a seat on the council. The other two were Sir Charles Todd and Professor Stirling. He was sure he expressed the feeling of his fellow members when he said he hoped Professor Bragg would not only live long to enjoy the honor, but that the record of his life would show that by his scientific achievements he had increased the present great distinction attaching to membership of the Royal Society. Mr. Scherk, as the son of a chancellor of a European university, and the other members of the council expressed their thanks to the president for having reminded them of the honor which had been conferred on Professor Bragg, and they cordially endorsed all that he had said. Professor Bragg tendered his warmest thanks to the president and members of the council for their good wishes and congratulations. He was very proud of the honor which had been conferred upon him. Nevertheless he had found that the most delightful consequence so far had been the many expressions of satisfaction on the part of his friends.

Advertiser 13 Mar '07

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The University Choral Class, under the conductorship of Mr. F. Bevan, reassembled on Tuesday evening, and rehearsed Sullivan's "Martyr of Antioch." Miss Guli Hack's part-singing class are rehearsing Schubert's "God in nature," Kiel's "Stabat Mater," and Volbach's "Raffael."

Register 13th Mar '07

UNIVERSITY HONOURS LISTS.

To the Editor.

Sir—The writer "Oncer," in The Register of Wednesday, February 27, was at great pains to cast as much discredit as possible on the Western Australian secondary schools. He deprecates the fact of candidates presenting themselves more than once for the Senior and Higher Public Examinations. It may not be generally known in South Australia that valuable money prizes are offered by the Western Australian Government for excellence in the two examinations referred to. Is not this very commendable? And is it any wonder that candidates should be assiduous in study until they attain the goal of their wishes? The selection of the Rhodes scholar partly depends on the best result in these exams. On looking over the list of successes in Western Australia I find that a respectable amount of the money prizes offered by the University has fallen to our students. This means that the recipients of such prizes must have been within the limit of age; and, indeed, so far as limit of age is concerned, Western Australia can point to a good muster of pass candidates. But the chief object of the writer is to induce the University authorities to debar candidates from appearing more than once on the result list. This would be to hamper true study, and pre-

vent the attainment of excellence in the school course. Any one of experience in teaching secondary schools will readily admit that the effort to get candidates over the Senior course for the first time, and within the short space of 10 months, is dreary work. Even under the altered conditions of the Senior there is a good step between the Junior and Senior programmes. But take the case of the average successful Senior candidate, "the Oncer" and enquire into his educational attainments. Are they such that the aspirant for professional honours might pass on to the university, and profit with advantage of the learned professor's lectures? Could the intending arts student, after dredging through his year's course, follow with ease the classical course of the first year? I do not think so, and I am sure university professors would agree that the longer students are kept at school the more matured will be their knowledge, and consequently the easier and more pleasant their university course. The writer of the article referred to would, as it seems, cramp the school education, and send forth to the business world, or to the university, youths with only half-knowledge. The secondary schools, in this case, would be mere cram machines. I am sure, if this question were brought before the University authorities, they would in their broad-mindedness regret that "Oncer" should have such contracted views of education, or that he would think of sending forth from school immature students of one year's senior course. All honour to the Western Australian Government, that by valuable prizes, induces students to continue at school to broaden and deepen their knowledge. I am sorry for "Oncer." Let us hope better things for him. I forgive him his want of generosity in so ruthlessly endeavouring to deprive our students of their laurels. A pity that any one should arise to narrow the scope of education in dear Adelaide—where I spent so many happy years—the fair city of so many grand educational institutions, the abode of a kindly and intellectual people.

I am, Sir, &c. L. L.
Christian Brothers' College, Perth.

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