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REG. 2.12.27

THE PROFESSIONS.

Decline in Students.

Are Women Replacing Men?

Are the professions of medicine, dentistry, and law exercising the same attractiveness to young men and women as they did a few years ago? Figures show that there is a decline in the number of students taking these three subjects at the University.

The question was answered in a variety of ways on Thursday by officials connected with the University, and in the majority of instances it was stated that other subjects were being taken up with greater zest by students, such as engineering, and the several branches of chemistry and physics. This was due to the demand for experienced men in these subjects.

Professions Probably Overcrowded.

Lecturers and others were generally of the opinion that the attendances had passed the pinnacle point in medicine, law, and dentistry, and a decline was setting in, although it was gradual. In 1920, and the two years following, there was a rush of students for those three professions, but there was every indication that the numbers would again become normal. On the other hand, the numbers attending the University are on the increase, this applying particularly to commercial and musical courses. The increase in the commercial course is very noticeable.

Asked why young men and women did not favour medicine, law, or dentistry, an official said it was probably due to the fact that these professions were considered to be overcrowded at the moment, while better opportunities were offering in other spheres.

Activity of Women.

An outstanding feature of the activities of the University is the increased interest being shown by women in all branches of its work. Coupled with this is a keen desire on their part to pit their capabilities against men in domains generally accepted as belonging to them. It has been suggested that women are entering the professions in largely increased numbers, thereby displacing men, but this is true only to an extent as far as Adelaide is concerned. The total number of girls desiring to enter recognised professions has varied very little. The following are the figures, supplied by the University, concerning the four courses previously mentioned:—

	1924.	1926.	1927.
Medicine	150	124	115
Dentistry	28	23	19
Law	92	83	81
Commerce	316	344	378

Apart from music, these are considered the more prominent professions, and the figures amply demonstrate the decline in the numbers attending three of the four subjects. In the commercial course the rise has been steady. In 1926 the number of women students was:—Medicine, 7; dentistry, 2; law, 4; and commerce, 46; and this year the figures were:—Medicine, 32. It was stated that the number of 10; dentistry, 3; law, 4; and commerce, female medical students was above the average since the post-war period. The numbers in other classes have varied very little, but in the commerce course the increase of women students has been most marked.

Men Need Not Fear.

Discussing the position of women in the professional and commercial world, a member of the University tutorial staff said that men did not have much to fear from the invasion by women of their domains, with the exception of lower paid office positions, because figures proved that the percentage of women who continued their avocation in later life had never been large. This was due principally to the fact that most of them preferred marriage to competing with men in the busy humdrum of the fight for existence in these commercialized days. There were instances, however, where women had fought against men, but their successes were few and far between. Their composition and "make-up" generally was against it, and for every success achieved in professions, overwhelming instances could be quoted to prove that "the home is woman's sphere, and she usually prefers it."

Physical Weaknesses Prominent.

"Take Adelaide as an example of what applies to the rest of the world," continued the speaker. "We have had girls go through their courses—some with flying colours, others after a hard struggle—but how many are there in business today, and proving highly successful? Not many. Some are still practising law and dentistry, which have proved the most popular work in the past, but how many are leading the profession here? In medicine there are one or two prominent, but others have not proved a success. In law, it is probable that they cannot concentrate on intricate legal points in the same manner as a man, while in dentistry and medicine it has been proved in many cases that emotion and other physical weaknesses play an important part in their failure eventually to rise to the absolute top."

On the aspect of prejudice against women, the speaker said it was absurd for any one to say professional men had a prejudice against women entering their avocations. But, at the same time, women had still to fight a slight prejudice on the part of the general public, particularly from their own sex, but it was not so pronounced as a speaker alleged at a women's meeting in Adelaide some weeks ago. On the same occasion it was also suggested that women could do things every bit as well as men. While they did equal man on occasions, as experiences in other parts of the world indicated, they invariably had much leeway to make up.

Examinations Not Harder.

Members of the tutorial section do not agree with the suggestion that the examinations are being made more difficult each year. They pointed out that no recent resolution existed on the books of the institution permitting this, but examination papers varied considerably according to the examiner, who had different ideas on certain subjects. Variations were also caused by the ever-widening scope of certain subjects, which assumed degrees of relative importance to the individual. However, the standard in Adelaide was good and sound, and students could not complain. There had been no decrease, or increase, in the standard, which was fair, and not abnormal. There were certain things expected to be known by the student, and on this depended his success or failure.

REG. 30.11.27

RHODES SCHOLAR.

Mr. F. W. Wagner Chosen.

Mr. F. W. Wagner, the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Wagner, of North Walkerville, has been chosen as the new Rhodes scholar for South Australia. His school days were spent at Queen's School, North Adelaide, where much of the knowledge which has gained him distinction at the Adelaide University, was received

MR. WAGNER.

under the able instruction of Mr. T. A LeMessurier. In 1923 he went to the University, since when he has distinguished himself in the fields of both sport and science. Mr. Wagner, who is 22 years of age, has been hon. secretary and President of the Science Association and hon. treasurer of the sports association. He has played in intervarsity football and cricket, having been awarded a cricket blue in 1925. Last year he was selecetd for the colts' match and to replace an unavailable man for the Western Australian tour.

In the past two years Mr. Wagner has assisted in demonstrating physica at the University, and intends to go to Balliol College, Oxford. This year he sat for the examination in honours physics to complete his course in science.

Mr. Wagner is the sixth Queen's School scholar to be awarded the Rhodes Scholarship. The other five have been Messrs. W. R. Reynell, W. Ray, A. H. Clarke, J. Rudall, and A. W. Morey.

REG. 2.12.27

THE ESTIMATES.

INCREASED SALARIES QUESTIONED.

£7,072,197 Passed.

The Estimates were considered in Committee in the House of Assembly on Thursday. Members sought information on many lines, particularly hospitals, aborigines, education, and railways.

inter alia

Miscellaneous, £39,180.

Dr. Basedow enquired why £137 was voted to the Sydney University for a Chair of Anthropology. He suggested that the amount be increased to create a lectureship in the subject at the Adelaide University, because this city had the best collection of specimens in Australia, and local students could not study in Sydney.

The Minister promised to investigate the matter.

Division vote passed.

REG. 30.11.27

DIPLOMA IN COMMERCE.

Vice-Chancellor's Explanation.

Referring on Tuesday to the new regulations for the diploma in commerce at the Adelaide University, the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell) stated:—

"The new regulations for the Diploma in Commerce have begun well in calling for Mr. Simpson's letter. He writes as President of the Royal Geographical Society, but he has also the best right to speak for commerce, and for the kind of education that it requires.

"The change came from two sources—one from the men in practice, who thought that the course gave too little opportunity for mental exercise except in learning; and the other from the general advantage of concentration. This is of two sorts. The subjects that were taken separately in the old course, like so many hurdles, are now united in economics, from whose divisions they spring, namely, banking from exchange, geography from production and distribution, and history from all three. Mr. Simpson will agree that this is good in principle, and I share his doubt about it being as good in practice. There is one way to secure that. It is to obtain a professor of commerce or of economics, who can give his full time to the work. We debated whether to wait for him, and decided that he would come the sooner from the Chambers of Commerce and Manufactures, if we did not wait.

"The other concentration concerns the optional subjects. Instead of letting them be new studies, and therefore elementary, we have followed the method in all other faculties of requiring the students to specialize. The whole course takes four years for the better students, all evening, and they will specialize in their last year, either in accountancy or in commercial law, or in statistics. The fourth alternative, public finance and administration, is to meet a special demand. The whole arrangement is one that can open out in several directions, the more the better; and I have no doubt that it will, when we have the professor, and the assistants he will require. I agree with Mr. Simpson regarding the claims of geography.

"There are two developments of the course which do not appear in the syllabus. One is to require students to read much further beyond the work done in lectures. This reading will be included in examinations. The other will require them to read a book of good literature once a month for their first two years, and to come at the end of the month and write an essay on it, which will be minutely examined. The University will provide the books. The tutor or some professor or lecturer in the University will give a lecture on the book and its author at the beginning of the month. We think this measure will have more value than merely to teach the men to express themselves well, though that is its first concern. If the experiment turns out well, we propose to open the course to other than students in commerce. Mr. Biaggini will act as tutor next year."

REG. 30.11.27

DR. RICHARDSON'S RETURN.

Having attended the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference in London during October, Dr. A. E. V. Richardson, of the University of Adelaide, passed through Fremantle on Tuesday on the liner Osterley, bound for Adelaide. Professor Richardson said his report would be presented to the Commonwealth Government, at whose invitation he had attended the conference, and all he could say was that the conference was very successful, and that the results should be of considerable value to agricultural research throughout the Empire. The conference had been attended by representatives of all the Dominions and 17 Crown colonies.

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The following remarks appeared in The Argus, Melbourne, at the time of the notification of the appointment of Mr. A. H. Cowling to the position of Professor of English in the University of Melbourne, concerning Mr. R. Bald, of the staff of the Adelaide University:—"The committee to which the appointment was referred had before it eight applications lodged with the Agent-General in London and eight applications lodged in Melbourne. The London committee, after interviewing the three most likely applicants, recommended Mr. Cowling. The Australian candidates were reduced to one, Mr. R. C. Bald, evening lecturer and tutor in English at the University of Adelaide. Mr. Bald, who was interviewed by the committee, is aged 26 years and was a Melbourne University student, who did a brilliant course in the English school under Professors Wallace and Sir Archibald Strong. The committee was impressed with Mr. Bald's scholastic carrer, but considered that the proved ability of Mr. Cowling gave him the advantage.

MAIL 3.12.27

Bishop of Adelaide

The Right Rev. Dr. Nutter Thomas, Bishop of Adelaide, will be 58 tomorrow week, December 11. Dr. Thomas was born in London, son of Charles James Thomas, of Blackheath, member of the Corporation of the City of London. He was educated at Oundle School, Pembroke College, Cambridge, and Wells Theological College. He was ordained by Bishop Walsham How, of Wakefield, in 1894. For four years he was domestic chaplain to the Archbishop of York.

From 1901 to 1906 Bishop Thomas was rector of Guisborough, Yorkshire, and for a while honorary chaplain to the Archbishop of York. While at Guisborough he was selected for the See of Adelaide and was consecrated at Westminster Abbey early in 1906. The wife of the Bishop is a daughter of the Rev. W. A. H. Lewis, vicar of Upper Gornal.

REG. 3.12.27

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

November Examination Results.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE.

FOR THE HONOURS DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE.

CHEMISTRY (54).—SECOND CLASS—Scott, Alfred Eric, B.Sc.

FACULTIES OF SCIENCE AND APPLIED SCIENCE.

FOR THE DEGREES OF B.A., B.Sc., AND B.E. PRACTICAL INORGANIC AND PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY—PART III. (49b).

PASSED WITH CREDIT.—Cox, Alwyn Birchmore.

PASSED (in alphabetical order).—May, Jack William; Walkley, Allan.

ADV. 3.12.27

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

NOVEMBER EXAMINATION RESULTS.
FACULTY OF SCIENCE.
FOR THE HONORS DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE.
CHEMISTRY (54).

Second Class.—Scott, Alfred Eric, B.Sc.

FACULTIES OF SCIENCE AND APPLIED SCIENCE.

FOR THE DEGREES OF B.A., B.Sc., AND B.E. PRACTICAL INORGANIC AND PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY, PART III. (49b).

Passed With Credit.—Cox, Alwyn Birchmore.

Passed (in alphabetical order).—May, Jack William; Walkley, Allan.