From the Register Detober 5 1882.

proposals have yet to be discussed by the Senate, from whom they will, no doubt, receive the most careful consideration. Without wishing in any way to prejudice or to forestall the deliberations of that body, we may now regard the scheme as ripe for public discussion. In framing their scheme the Council have evidently taken the University of London as their model, and they have aimed at securing the cooperation of the South Australian Law All the examinations for the Society. degree of LLB. will be in technical subjects, and the degree will be an evidence of special rather than of general culture. The Adelside degree may of course, be taken, as the London degree frequently is, by those who do not intend to join the legal profession; but one of the objects aimed at in providing for the degree here, and one of the most direct effects of the adoption of the scheme of the University Council, will be to raise the educational status of the legal profession in South Australia. A glance at the regulations will show that this end has been steadily kept in view by the Council. We believe we are correct in saying that if the scheme is brought into operation the examinations which it is proposed shall be arranged for by the University will take the place of the intermediate and final examinations of the Supreme Court which articled clerks are now required to pass before being admitted to the Bar. The fairest way of looking at the subject is, therefore, to consider how it will be likely to affect the future of the legal profession in the

As the members of the legal profession enjoy special privileges it is not unreasonable to require that they should be men with some degree of culture, and especially that they should have an intimate acquaintance with the technical subjects relating to their profession. We admit that a candidate for admission to the

colony

Bar may have all this, and yet turn out a miserable failure as a practising lawyer. On the other hand, however, few will deny that the successful lawyer will have his chances of success increased in proportion to the extent of his general and special culture. Honce, though there may be a difference of opinion as to details, we do not imagine that there will be any serious opposition to the general scope of the proposals of the University Council. They include provision for lectures on the subjects to be passed by candidates for the IL.B. degree, and for the examinations in that degree, and are reproduced elsewhere in the report of the last meeting of the Council. It will

be noticed that students who do not take thefull LL. B. course, but pass in any or all of the subjects specified in regulation No 6, will be entitled to a certificate to that effect. 'It will be seen also that the examinations need not be taken in the years in which the lectures have been attended, and that attendance at the lectures may be dispensed with in certain cases, Regulation No. 12 contains a provision which will allow of those who are now articled clerks members of the profession obtaining the degree of LL.B. on passing an examination in certain of the subjects prescribed for the regular course. This is a very wise and proper concession. It is important also to note that one of the statutes dealing with the matter provides that "the appointment of examiners in the subjects necessary for admission to the Bar shall be subject to approval by the Judges of the Supreme Court."

From these particulars we are able to form a shrewd guess at the way in which the scheme will work. The present tests for admission to the Bar will of course be abolished, and the University examinations will be accepted instead. The degree of LL.B. will be accepted as an evidence of the necessary technical scholarship of an app'icant. As, however, it may be difficult for all articled clerks, especially those residing in the country, to pass in all the subjects required for the degree, certificates of competency in the special subjects named in Regulation 6 will also qualify articled clerks for admission. This makes a higher and a lower standard of efficiency, and at first sight it seems open to objection. Seeing, however, that the two branches of the profession are here united, it would be a mistake at the outset, at any rate, to make the compulsory standard for admission too high. Every applicant for admission nust pass the restricted standard, and it will be open to any one to go in for the

LL.B., which will of necessity place those who obtain it in a position of advantage to which they will be fairly entitled. As we have already pointed out, the cases of articled clerks residing in country have been carefully considered, and also the position of present members of the profession who may desire to obtain the degree which it is proposed to establish. As the degree of LL.B. is clearly not intended to be a compulsory qualification for admission to the Bar, it seems a pity that the Arts course should be entirely excluded from it. Still it must be remembered that this plan has been adopted elsewhere, and that while it would be dangerous to