

usefulness of the University it would have been a suicidal policy to sacrifice efficiency at the shrine of a shallow popularity. Hitherto they have had to be content with plodding on quietly, waiting for the results which time could alone give them, viz., the growth of a more healthy feeling in favor of learning, and the completion of suitable premises in which to carry on their work. Both these results have been attained. The standard of education has been slowly but surely rising during the past seven years, and the ceremony of to-day marks the completion of the building. There will be no excuse for the council and the professors if some vigorous effort is not now made to extend the usefulness of the University. It should be distinctly recognised by a University in such a colony as this that it has two cognate and distinct functions. It must prepare its students for graduation and must maintain the high standard of its degrees at all hazards. But it ought also to provide some means of education for those who are not able to enter for a degree. There are many men who have acquired at school or in the course of private study a taste for particular branches of learning who have not the time and perhaps not the acquirements for taking a degree. To such men the opportunity of attending lectures in science or literature, given by the ablest scholars and scientists that we possess, would be very attractive. The appliances at the disposal of the professors of science are such as can be found nowhere else in the city. The library will before long contain literary treasures surpassing all private collections of books. It does not seem right that these costly and valuable aids to learning should only be used in instructing the young men who are entered on the roll as students intending to graduate. Already a good beginning has been made. Three courses of lectures are being given which are attended chiefly by non-matriculated students. Dr. Cleland, who is acting for Professor Tate during his absence, is giving lectures on chemistry; Professor Fletcher is lecturing on English literature, and Dr. Stirling has a class of students in physiology; and each of these courses of lectures is attended mainly by students who have no intention of following up their attendance by graduation. The total number of such students is more than twice as many as were enrolled last year. It is intended to extend these courses of lectures. The council is reported to be engaged in con-

sidering what other subjects can be treated, and in what directions the usefulness of the University may be extended. It is especially gratifying to find how cordially the public has appreciated the lectures of Dr.



Stirling. The subject is a new one, but the attendance is more numerous than at any other course. It is to be hoped that in due time this may prove to be the beginning of a medical school which may grow into usefulness and prominence like the medical school of Melbourne.

The eager wish of the council to appropriate part of the Hughes endowment towards the formation of a school for the study of law has met with an unexpected check in the refusal of Sir W. Hughes to alter the terms of his gift, but we do not see why the council should relax its efforts in that direction. A law school must be of gradual growth, and as the first year's tuition for a legal degree must necessarily run almost on the same lines as for the other degrees a beginning may be made next year. In the following year one or more law lectureships may be established, which will meet the requirements of the students as they arise. We are convinced that the legal as well as the medical profession contains in its ranks men who will do honor to the University by delivering lectures on those branches of law which they have made subjects of special study. The University makes to-day a new departure. In a new building, under the clerical management of a new registrar, and commencing various new schemes of work, it will henceforth challenge public criticism in a way that it has never done hitherto. Both senate and council have undergone some changes. The venerable warden of the senate gives place to a successor who is to be elected to-day. The clerk of the senate, who has also to be elected, will henceforth be one who does not hold the office of registrar as heretofore, so that the confusion that has hitherto existed in the minds of many as to the relative duties of those two important offices will be settled by circumstances. It is to be hoped that the many hopeful adjuncts to the ceremonial of this day may be the precursors of much usefulness and healthy public influence on the part of our youthful University.