

REGISTER, MONDAY,

FEBRUARY 13, 1882.

and Professorial Board such information as they had not always been acquainted with. (Applause.) In this relation he might mention that by the rules recently made the matriculation examination was made very much more difficult than before by the introduction of two optional subjects, which were made compulsory so far as the number was concerned, and he was doubtful whether any but a few students would pass this year in consequence of the extra labour and time of preparation required.

Mr. T. CATERER, J.P., in proposing a vote of thanks to the President for his address, said that he endorsed all his remarks. If the assistants would receive the head masters he for one would be glad to meet them; and as to ladies, they might be admitted to the meetings of the Association as auditors, but there was once a lady on a committee with which he was connected, and he would say no more on that subject. (Laughter.) The Association should get as many representatives as possible on the Senate of the University for the purpose of sticking up for their profession, and showing where their interests lay. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. HOPKINS seconded the vote of thanks, and reminded the meeting that the interests of the schoolmasters were connected with the lower as well as the higher branches of education, for if they were to advance in respect of higher education primary education must be thoroughly taught. (Applause.) With regard to the admission of ladies into the Association, they did good service on the London and other School Boards, and an instance of this was lately to be seen in the exposure of a great sink of iniquity in London. (Hear, hear.) He did not quite see the bearing of the remarks of the Chairman on the greatly increased difficulty of the University examinations, but he regretted that such should be the case, and he was prepared to acquit the authorities of any intention to make things more difficult than hitherto.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. LYONS wished to move that certain retired schoolmasters holding degrees should be admitted into the Association, so that they might represent it on the University Senate, but it was pointed out by the Chairman that this was not allowed by the rules, which could only be altered at the Christmas meeting.

The meeting then closed.

THE LONDON AND THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES. — Some months ago the Council of the Adelaide University wrote to the Senate of London University, asking that the graduates from the local institution might be admitted to the same privileges as are at present allowed to graduates of the University of Melbourne, with respect to the admission, without matriculation, to certain of the degree examinations of the University of London. Somewhat unexpectedly, we believe, this request has been refused. It is satisfactory to know that the refusal is not attributable to any doubt as to the value of South Australian degrees. The application, it seems, has led the Senate of the London University to reconsider the grounds upon which the privilege sought had been granted to Melbourne and other colonial Universities. They were the distance of the localities from London, the uncertainty of communication, and the difficulty of holding examinations for London University degrees in these distant places. The increased facilities for transit between England and the colonies, especially those in the Australian group, have entirely changed the conditions, and it is, therefore, held that there is no reason for extending the privilege to South Australia. At the same time, however, it is felt that it would be unfair to place Adelaide at a disadvantage as compared with Melbourne and Sydney, and it seems probable that the privilege enjoyed by the two last-named Universities will be withdrawn. The authorities of the London University are certainly justified in taking the stand that the degrees conferred by that institution should be obtained on the same conditions everywhere, and should be granted to none but its matriculated students. It is to be hoped, therefore, that they will be able to establish in Australia, as they have done in other British colonies, one or more centres in which the matriculation examination and the examination for degrees in arts may be held. If this is not done a delay of several months will be experienced by those graduates proceeding from Adelaide who may wish to enter for a London degree. They will have first to pass the matriculation examination in London, and unless they can pass that with honours two years will elapse before they can obtain the first degree in arts. It was perfectly reasonable to expect that South Australian graduates would have the same privilege accorded them as is enjoyed by Melbourne and Sydney graduates, and that their degree would enable them to take rank as matriculated students of London. This, however, is not to be the case. Probably as there is some reason for supposing that the other Australian Universities will be levelled down to the position of Adelaide, joint action will be taken to induce the Senate of London University to institute local centres in these colonies, at least for their matriculation examinations, and possibly also for the examinations for the first degree in Arts.