

The Register.

ADELAIDE: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1, 1882.

THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

The report of the Council of the University of Adelaide for the past year bears a striking family likeness to its predecessors. It is for the most part a museum with all the objects neatly and conspicuously labelled, and that is about all we can say in its favour. One does not expect to find life in a museum, and since the University reports are evidently intended to be an imitation of such an institution we may fairly congratulate the compiler upon the persistency and faithfulness with which he has clung to his idea. But even in a museum it is not unreasonable to look for systematic classification of the various objects displayed. In the present production this is wanting. We pass from School of Medicine to Endowment, then to Admission to Degrees, University Buildings, Royal Letters Patent, Curriculum, &c. The report begins with a reference to the changes in the Council and the officers of the University. The resignation of the Chancellorship by the late Bishop of Adelaide did not take effect until after the year had ended, and therefore it of course is not alluded to. The only changes which have taken place in the Council are the election of Dr. Stirling in the place of the Bishop of Adelaide, and of Mr. Frederic Ayers in the stead of the Hon. Henry Scott. A very appropriate reference is made to the loss sustained by the death of the late Professor Davidson, and his labours in connection with the University are mentioned in terms of the highest appreciation. As is generally known, his place has been temporarily filled by the Rev. W. R. Fletcher, M.A. The Council are anxious to obtain the consent of Sir W. W. Hughes to a different appropriation of the income from his endowment. The report says—"To omit from the curriculum classics, English literature, or mental and moral philosophy formed no part of the Council's purpose, but they felt convinced that power to redistribute the duties of the Hughes Professors and vary the appropriation of the income of the fund would enable them to extend the usefulness of the University, while the important branches of learning referred to would continue to be taught not less efficiently than before. Trusting to the known public spirit of Sir W. W. Hughes, the Council have asked his concurrence in alterations of the nature just indicated, and should their proposal be acceded to by him Parliamentary

sanction for it will afterwards be sought." We trust the nature of the alterations has been more clearly pointed out to Sir W. W. Hughes than it is in the foregoing extract. From it we learn what the Council's intentions are not, but as to what they really propose we are left entirely in the dark. As the subject is one of great public interest we think the Council might have condescended to give some hint as to the character of the proposals they are seeking to carry out.

A bare allusion is made to the receipt of the Royal Letters Patent, which not only recognise the degrees to be granted in Science, but also authorize the University to confer degrees on women. The first step has been taken towards the establishment of a Medical School by creating a Lectureship on Human Physiology. Dr. Stirling has been appointed the first Lecturer for a term of two years. Since the receipt of the Royal Letters Patent, a course for the Degree of Bachelor of Science has been prescribed and the regulations appear in the calendar. It is known that some months ago a good deal of interest was taken in the regulations for the matriculation and primary examinations, but the report simply notifies the fact that an amended scheme has been adopted. Equally vague are the references to the class-lists and examinations last year. "Five students (one a lady) began their undergraduate course in 1881; three completed the first year, four the second year, and six the third year of their studies for the degree of B.A." Whether this is a satisfactory state of things, and whether the figures are an evidence of progress or the contrary, the report does not state; and apparently the compiler of it regarded it as too troublesome a matter

to make a comparison with previous years. Even with the aid of past reports it is impossible for an outsider to do so. So far as we are able to form a conclusion from the very meagre details supplied, we judge that last year's work was not equal to that of some of the preceding years. The numbers attending classes and entering for the various examinations were only slightly in advance of those for 1880, and the results of the examinations were not so satisfactory. This may be due in part to the greater stringency of the tests; but if so the matter might surely have been explained. With regard to the South Australian Scholarship we are told that two candidates competed in December; "but the award has not yet been made." As some curious rumours were afloat about this examination, it would have been more satisfactory if the Council had