

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—From the little correspondence that has followed the letter from me you were so good as to publish it appears either that the subject treated of was of small importance or that the arguments used were so overwhelming that further remark was unnecessary. If the former is the case Professor Lamb and the public are in full accord, for in your report of the meeting of the senate he alleges that he has consulted "several schoolmasters and persons of experience" The report, however, does not say whether these agreed with the professor in his view that Latin, Greek, and mathematics should have a large preference over the more modern subjects of study in order "to promote a higher degree of education in the rising generation." To show the amenability of this gentleman's mind to consultation with "teachers and persons of experience," I note that he proceeds to split hairs with one of them, for when Mr. Ohapple spoke of the time at which a candidate may pass the primary examination being reduced from 18 to 16 years of age, he admits the major proposition by pleading that the alteration is only 1½ years and not two. The professor says that the reason he has confined the subjects to three is "to promote a better standard of education," and proceeds to argue the point for the thousand-and-oneth time, which is only partially true even in England, where a more minute division of labor obtains—in opposition to Carlyle, who gives as his opinion that it is well that youth should learn, as it were, the alphabet of many subjects, so that whatever position the student may assume in after life he may have the first approaches to the subject he requires already at hand. I would further remind the professor that in the curriculum of bachelor of science the London University gives four subjects, one of which only is taken on for the doctorate of science. So our learned professor is very like building his pyramid, of grounding his pupils, on its apex instead of finishing it off as he proceeds on height. The professor proposes that the examiners should be allowed to experimentalise in the matter of marks for an indefinite time, when if any injustice is discovered some member of the senate should get it rectified. I would recommend to the professor's attention Huxley's remarks to medical men at the late congress, that the period of experimentalising upon their patients was nearly at an end, for a doctor of medicine nowadays ought to know his duty right away. I should be glad to ask, through your columns, whether the resources of the colony have been so thoroughly ransacked that a single drop of new blood could not be infused into the council, for I see that although the rules of the University affirm the desirability of a change of membership by providing that five members retire annually, yet there was no new member proposed—all five had to take their old places. Or am I to gather that the University management is so unpopular that there are no aspirants to seats in its council? From the way in which the remarks of Mr. Ohapple and the enquiries of Mr. Labbatt were met it does not appear to be a place where much liberty of sentiment is encouraged. Like many others who have rising families to be educated, I have no opportunity of becoming acquainted with Professor Lamb except through the press. I therefore must learn through this channel, if at all, that he with the other professors and councillors are the right men in the right place; but till these men show their ability for their position by taking the public a little more into their confidence, so that something may be learned from each other on both sides, instead of endeavoring by a cut and dried officialism to force a system of education here, the fitness of which is much disputed even in England, the University will fail of its object, and the teaching it seeks to impart will lack that adaptation to the soil which alone can make it flourish. Your article on legal education is one with which for the most part I can agree, for those persons who