

OCTOBER 27, 1881.

such a change as is now in course of completion is certainly one which ought to be submitted to the criticism of public opinion. It is practically asking the founder of a chair to submit to a diversion of his gift to another purpose, if such additions are made to its duties as to crowd out the subjects which he sacrificed so much property to have thoroughly taught. Sir Thomas Elder may next expect to see pressure brought to bear upon him to incorporate with the chairs he has endowed other things tending to throw into the background the subjects in which he was specially interested. The precedent attempted in this instance seems to be one of doubtful wisdom; and it is desirable that the whole subject should be submitted to public criticism.

REGISTER, WEDNESDAY,

NOVEMBER 2, 1881.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS. — The Hughes Professorship of English Literature, rendered vacant by the death of the late Professor Davidson, has been temporarily filled by the appointment, for the year 1882 only, of the Rev. W. R. Fletcher, M.A., who has been discharging the duties of the office during the past few weeks. The salary has been reduced to £500 per annum, an amount which reaches the lowest margin that ought to be recognised in fixing the stipend of a Professor; and it is to be feared that after the next year, when it becomes necessary to appoint a gentleman whose whole time will be devoted to the work, some difficulty may be experienced in finding one of adequate attainments at that salary. Still, in view of the present position of affairs, the University Council are perhaps wiser in erring on the side of economy than in going to the other extreme. There are many desirable objects to which the limited funds at the disposal of the Council may be applied. One of these is the preparation for the ultimate establishment of a School of Medicine. The first step in this direction has been taken in the appointment of Dr. E. C. Stirling as Lecturer in Human Physiology. A committee has been asked to report at next meeting on the best method of arranging the new course of study which is thus to be added to the University curriculum. By imparting instruction in human physiology the University will materially assist in disseminating medical knowledge, especially among young men destined to enter the profession. It is to be hoped that before long steps will be taken to secure the recognition by other Universities and by the various diploma-granting bodies of all those courses of instruction given in our University, which can fairly be considered as forming part of a medical education. Several of the other subjects might advantageously be remodelled with that view, and the result would be that medical students might obtain half their

education in Adelaide University, and complete the course for a degree or a diploma by an absence of only a year or two from the colony, instead of the long period of exile which the training of a medical man at present involves. There are, no doubt, difficulties in the way of effecting this arrangement, but they would probably be found not insuperable. Comparatively few young men studying medicine would enter for a year's course of human physiology at our University unless they knew that their work would bring them nearer the goal of their ambition, namely, a medical degree or a diploma entitling them to practice. The new subject is set down in the new regulations as one of those prescribed for students in the third year of the Bachelor of Science course. But if this be the only use to which the lectures are to be applied it is to be feared that for several years to come Dr. Stirling will have but few pupils.

REGISTER, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1881.

THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINA- TIONS.

The reorganizing of the examinations held in connection with the Adelaide University is an event of no little importance in the development of that institution. All tests which are applied for determining the quality of the work which is being done, both inside the University and by those outside of its immediate control, must affect to a great extent the direction of the channels into which the intellectual energies of the rising generation will be directed. The University is valuable to the community as an active teaching agency; but it is of still more importance as a tribunal for deciding on the nature of the studies to be pursued, and for awarding distinctions to those who have earned them.

As regards the matriculation and primary examinations, and the comparative advantages of keeping them entirely separate or of merging them into one, we pointed out a few weeks ago that in Sydney the former course is adopted, while Melbourne University, on the other hand, has chosen the plan of using the same examinations to serve the objects of both. The Council of Adelaide University in the new regulations which they have just adopted have followed a middle course. The two examinations have been rendered identical, so far as regards the six elementary and compulsory subjects of an ordinary school course, and the same papers will be set before the candidates for both. But for the matriculation course

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