

The Register.

ADELAIDE: THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1884.

THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

There are two or three matters affecting the future operations of the University that should be definitely settled by the Council with as little delay as possible. The absorption of some thousands of the Endowment Fund for building purposes is a serious blot upon the past dealings of the Council. The proposal to set aside £500 a year for sixteen years to replace the portion of the Endowment Fund that has been used in the building is a tardy attempt to repair to some extent the mismanagement of the past; but there is the objection to this that it will cripple the income of the University at the very time when additions to its funds are urgently required. The whole matter should be set straight without delay, because it is pretty certain that all the anticipated tuition in new branches of study cannot be carried on with the limited appliances which the building affords. Its arrangements are excellent as far as they go. They provide four lecture-rooms, a museum, a library, and two laboratories. This was ample for the requirements of the University as long as its tuition was limited to what was required for the B.A. and B.Sc. courses. Now, however, that a Law School has been initiated, and that steps are being taken to establish a School of Medicine and a School of Music, something will before long have to be done to increase the accommodation. We understand that it is the intention of the Council to apply the old powder magazine, which happens to be on the ground granted to the University, as a dissecting-room for the use of students of anatomy. This building is well adapted for the purpose, and a small expenditure will suffice to fit it for its new uses. Thus what has been deemed an excrescence in the University grounds will prove to be a valuable acquisition. This will meet part of the need, but not by any means the whole of it. The temptation to encroach yet further on the Endowment Fund will have to be resisted, and ought to be resisted.

Important as it is to have ample accommodation it will be better to suffer some temporary inconvenience than to follow the precedent of former years. When the need comes to be felt and to be understood by the public we do not doubt that the means will be forthcoming. Hitherto the course of

events has been peculiarly favourable to University endowments both here and in the neighbouring colonies. A hall was needed in Melbourne to accommodate the examinations and to serve for public ceremonies, and forthwith Sir Samuel Wilson offered the necessary funds, and the Wilson Hall has been built as a monument of his liberality. In Sydney private donations have furnished the noble hall of that University with an organ and a screen. In our own colony the advent of a Governor whose soul is filled with an enthusiasm for music has been the occasion for the establishment of a Chair of Music, which will enable the Adelaide University to be first in the field in the granting of the training requisite for obtaining a degree in that scientific accomplishment. No sooner did the Council express its desire to found a School of Medicine than Sir Thomas Elder came forward with his liberal gift of £10,000 as a nest-egg. When it was found that the interest on that amount, with the Government subsidy added, was not enough to provide even for the first two years of a medical education, then Mr. J. H. Angas offered an annual gift of £350 towards a Chair of Chemistry, and undertook to convert this donation in due time into an endowment. It must be admitted that our University Council is not as free to develop the University as are the governing bodies of kindred institutions in Victoria and New South Wales. The methods pursued by the Parliaments of the several colonies of helping the Universities essentially differ. In Sydney and in Melbourne, as the sphere of operations enlarges, a more and more liberal grant is made out of the public purse. Let the Council present a good case and the funds are voted. In Sydney, for instance, a scheme of evening lectures has recently been drawn up, and the Parliament has voted an additional £1,000 per annum to give effect to the proposal. In Melbourne if a new Chair is required, and the need meets with the approval of the Ministry and the Parliament, the salary is provided for on the Estimates. Here,