

fixed for the test. Then, for the Junior and Senior Examinations it is proposed to remove the proviso that all candidates must previously have passed the Preliminary ordeal, while by paying half a guinea extra they may obtain a special examination in dictation and arithmetic. There are fresh proposals for junior and senior honours and credits. In mathematics, for instance, Junior candidates will only attempt the questions introducing quadratic equations and surds if they desire to secure a credit in algebra; and similarly, in the Senior, those questions which require a knowledge of the binomial theorem, trigonometry, &c., are to be classed as credit questions. In the lists the first-class will include those who have passed in English literature and history, and also in two other languages, mathematics, and another subject in the same department, and who have in addition scored two credits. A fourth-class is to be added, comprising those who have merely passed in three subjects, and second and third class passes will, of course, be intermediate between these extremes. It is intended that the period of the principal examinations shall still be the end of November, but considering the very hot weather usually experienced at that time, and the exhaustion caused thereby to many candidates, it would be well to consider the advisability of altering the date to a less trying season. Another matter, which has been duly attended to in connection with the public examinations in music, also calls for special notice. We refer to the need for Assessors or Boards of Examiners for each subject so as to secure uniformity and to introduce a wholesome check upon the undue, if unconscious, tendency on the part of even the most careful and conscientious of single examiners to be guided by his individual idiosyncrasies in assessing the value of the work done. The principle is already recognised and acted upon in regard to some of the examinations for degrees, and there is no reason why in the University of Adelaide, as in some other Universities, it should not also be made of more extended application.

PROFESSOR WATSON AND THE HOSPITAL.

1896

When Professor Watson expressed his willingness to act as honorary consulting surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital it did not for one second enter his head that the acceptance of the distinction would meet with the most marked disapproval of his professional brethren; "but such unfortunately being the case I can only," he wrote in a letter to the board, "decline the honor which, however unmerited, would under happier conditions have been gratefully accepted." The board had no alternative but to receive the letter with an expression of regret, but more than one member spoke very strongly on the action of the Medical Association. Mr. Lyons said the tyranny of the edict which had gone forth from that body had perhaps never been equalled through all the ages since the days of Nehemiah. "We never thought," he continued, "that this good and unassuming man would be called upon to appear before a tribunal of the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association to show cause for something or give reasons to satisfy them as to why he dared to exercise his own franchise and consent to become a member of the honorary staff if elected." It meant that if the professor accepted the position he would be spurned and even ostracised by the association. Mr. Wadey said they all knew it was no fault of the professor's. A threat had been held out by the medical profession that if he accepted the position he would be ignored—he would not say boycotted. "Oh, you might," interjected one of his audience. Both Mr. Lyons and Mr. Wadey expressed pleasure that the University had played no part in the matter, and they were accordingly hopeful as regards the result of the proposed conference between the council and the board. Notwithstanding "the vindictive action of the association," Mr. Wadey hopes that Professor Watson will yet occupy the position.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

At the periodical meeting of the board of management of the Adelaide Hospital on Friday afternoon a proposal was received from the Council of the University that with a view of arriving at a satisfactory arrangement in respect to the efficient maintenance of the medical school, a conference should take place between the council and the board to consider the matter as soon as possible. The suggestion was favorably received by the board, and it was decided that if convenient to both parties the conference should take place on next Friday evening. Mr. Lyons expressed the opinion that the council would do its best to bring about a satisfactory settlement, and he was sure the board was quite as anxious, although up to the present this fact had not been properly appreciated. The members of the board generally are very sanguine that the conference will result in a solution of the long-standing difficulty.