

Register

13 Feb 1896

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—It will be a great relief to the forty-eight students at present passing through the medical course in Adelaide, not to mention the ten or a dozen who are desirous of engaging in the study of medicine, to learn that the maintenance of the Medical School is assured for another twelve months at least. For this they and the public have to thank the Council of the University, who have pertinaciously applied themselves to the task of tiding over a crisis in the affairs of the School. The Government have in this matter acted in the spirit of the unjust Judge of Holy Writ. Appeals addressed to them on the grounds of a practical breach of faith with persons actually engaged in the study of medicine and of injury to the community failed to move them. Again and again they were approached with arguments which convincingly proved the mischief likely to accrue from the sudden withdrawal of State aid from an important department of the University, but all without avail. It is the impotency of the Council that has prevailed. Even as it is the Government have only consented to give a moiety of the moderate vote which has of late represented their contribution to the cause of medical education, but this, of course, is better than nothing. The remainder of the funds required for the year are to be forthcoming from private sources, and hearty thanks are due to the unknown donor or donors who have rendered such timely aid. This temporary solution of the difficulties which threatened the continuance of the School has not been arrived at any too soon, as the academical year will very shortly be entered upon, and the lecturers, who will at once be notified of the renewal of their engagements, will have little enough time to prepare for the several courses. The episode thus happily closed is far from creditable to the Government or to the Parliament

which, at all events tacitly, endorsed the Ministerial policy. Obviously, too, the matter cannot be allowed to end here. The idea of an annual struggle such as that which has just been brought to an end cannot be tolerated. It should not be in the power of any Ministry imbued with erratic notions as to the value of culture and the promotion of certain branches of professional training to jeopardize the existence of a national institution. It was to guard against capricious action of this sort that Parliament years ago fixed by law certain grants to be given to the University; and assuming, as we are justified in doing, that the utility of the Medical

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School is recognised by the country at large there is no reason why the vote for it should not be placed on as secure a footing as that for the arts, law, and science courses. The need for rigid economy in public expenditure exists, but South Australia is not in so impoverished a condition as to be unable to afford the few hundred pounds necessary to maintain the interests of higher education, whether it be in the shape of books for the Public Library, pictures for the National Gallery, or lecturers for a Medical School which has already proved so serviceable to the community.

*Register
25th Feb 1896*

THE UNIVERSITY CALENDAR.—By an inadvertence we stated this morning that the experiment tried last year of publishing beforehand the principal parts of the work in separate sections for the convenience of students had apparently been abandoned. The Registrar informs us that the pamphlets have been published again, and they were on sale at the booksellers some time before the appearance of the calendar. The Registrar also asks us to state that the delay in publishing the calendar was quite unavoidable, and that in spite of the difficulties which prevented its earlier publication, the book was only one week later than last year.