

Surely, however, a concession of £500 or £800 will not remove all the backbone from their policy. They ought to remember, too, that in this case while retrenching expenditure they will also be, in a small way, sapping revenue. Indirectly, at least a little of the grant returns to the State coffers, as students of the third, fourth, and fifth years pay fees to the Hospital. Much more important than this is the fact that the Medical School saves money to the colony by providing the Hospital with house surgeons and physicians at purely nominal salaries. If the school should be closed, this advantage will be lost. But, really, the financial objection to continuing the grant is too frail to need all this knocking down.

The worst feature of the business, so far as the Government are concerned, is that it looks uncommonly like a breach of faith. The University makes a strong point of the fact that the medical course was extended to the complete term of five years on a plain understanding with the Government that the school was to receive the £800 a year saved by abolishing the South Australian scholarship. If this £800 a year is essential to the complete organisation of the school, it is really too bad to take it away, and so undo all the work of years. Such a result is not only to be deplored for its own sake, but because of the discouragement to private liberality. Sir Thomas Elder endowed the Medical School with a foundation grant of £10,000, and Mr. J. H. Angas gave £6,000 to establish the chair of Chemistry. Cannot the State afford to respond with the paltry annual grant of £800? We leave out of the case, as unthinkable, any supposition that the Government do not believe in the desirableness of a Medical School. Such a view could not possibly be reconciled with their protectionist policy. There must be a regular supply of medical practitioners, come it whence it will, to repair the constant ravages of time in the ranks of the profession. Surely it is well that our doctors should be locally supplied, and the local men, if they can be, should be locally educated for their work. We have plenty

of the right kind of raw material. True, the Minister of Education has lately delivered himself of the opinion that it is "no use putting our boys to the learned professions, such as the law and medicine, as both are overcrowded." But, *pace* Dr. Cockburn, all our boys are not cut out for farmers, and some make very good lawyers and doctors.

We wonder, by the way, what the Premier thinks of his colleague's statement that the law is overcrowded. This would make a nice item in a speech against the Law Reform Bill. That the medical profession is overcrowded is an assertion we often hear; but usually from doctors. They, naturally enough, do not at all appreciate lodges and their abominable endeavors to cut professional payment; and of course the more doctors there are competing with each other, the harder the lodges turn the screw. The profession in Adelaide, however, are far too public-spirited to look askance at the Medical School from any selfish or narrow motives. Largely through their efforts it lives and flourishes. It has turned out some 24 graduates up to date, which is not by any means an excessive supply, and we have the satisfaction of knowing that nearly all of these have settled and are practising in the colony. It would be a thousand pities to let such an institution expire, or make it necessary to send students to other universities to finish their education.

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Register

13 Feb 1896

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.—The Government have, on reconsideration, agreed to place on next year's Estimates a reduced grant of £300 for the Medical School for the present year, and in addition the Council are for this year relieved from all anxiety in regard to carrying on the school by a munificent offer made anonymously through the Chancellor. The lecturers were recently notified that in consequence of the Government withdrawing the usual grant to the school they could not be re-engaged. Owing to the latest action of the Government these notices will now be withdrawn.