

Registered July 30th 08

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CONSERVATORIUM CONCERTS.
 From "Patron":—"These concerts are enjoyable, and the staff are to be congratulated on the manner in which they are presented. Latterly, however, too much of the professional mannerism is being introduced, and if the Director is not above taking a hint (given in a kindly spirit) might I suggest that encores be not responded to, that the passing up of floral tributes be discouraged, and that ladies in the audience be notified to kindly remove their hats. The students who receive the most flowers are not always the most deserving, and if the practice could be abolished it would effectually break up the incipient cliquism which is evidently making headway at the Conservatorium."

ANATOMY AND STUDY.
 —
THE EXAMINATION OF BODIES.
 —
A LAX LAW.

The recent exhumations and discoveries concerning the mutilation of dead bodies have brought under the notice of the Government and the public the defects of the law with respect to the mutilation of corpses by medical practitioners for the purpose of procuring pathological and other specimens. Clause 10 of the Anatomy Act, of 1884, says—

"The Chief Secretary may by a license under his hand authorise the medical officer of any public institution supported wholly or in part by funds from the general revenue to permit the body of any person who may die in such public institution unless such institution shall be a public hospital, to undergo anatomical examination in any school of anatomy or in any public institution, unless to the knowledge of such licensee such person shall have expressed his desire, either in writing at any time during his life, or verbally, during the illness whereof he died, that his body after death might not undergo such examination, or unless the surviving husband or wife, or the nearest known relative of the deceased person shall require the body to be interred without such examination."

The words "unless such institution shall be a public hospital" seem to except the Adelaide Hospital from this provision. Clause 12 of the Act provides that it shall be lawful for any teacher or student holding a license from the Governor to receive or possess for anatomical examination the body of any deceased person, "if permitted or directed so to do by a person who had at the time of giving such permission or direction lawful possession of the body," and there are various other sections on the subject, but in every case provision is made that an order or license must be procured before the examination can be conducted. Apparently the Act makes it impossible for anyone to remove or mutilate a body without special permission, and that is as it should be, but the strange feature of all the laws relating to the matter is that there is really no provision which makes it a punishable offence to mutilate or remove a body. In other words, the law says the thing shall not be done, and at the same time omits to make it an offence if it is done. A person crossing the street might drop dead, but still be taken to the hospital, and the necessary certificate for burial might be given. After identification the relations might not care to go through the ordeal of seeing the corpse again, and the coffin might be closed down, but under the loose law at present in force the corpse could be removed and a log of wood substituted for the purposes of burial. Of course as Professor Watson says, it is impossible to educate doctors if the teachers have not specimens to work upon, because a medical man educated by means of books and hearsay only could not possibly be as expert as the one who had obtained his experience by practical anatomy, but there should be some regulation with respect to the acquisition of the necessary specimens. It should not be in the power of anyone to mutilate the body of the humblest pauper without the consent of the inspector of anatomy or some other official. When the School of Anatomy was established in 1885 licenses were issued to Professor Watson and Professor Stirling to practise anatomy in the School of Anatomy established in connection with the University, but it is questionable whether the license contemplated that bodies should be taken without official consent.

A UNIVERSITY WANTED.
A PERTH DEPUTATION.
 Perth, July 31.
 The Treasurer (Mr. Wilson), acting for the Premier (Mr. Moore), who is indisposed, received a deputation to-day representing the University Graduates' Union of Western Australia, who asked for the appointment of a Royal Commission to report on the advisability of establishing a University in Perth.
 The Minister stated that the matter of establishing a University has been long under the consideration of the Government, who thought the time had arrived when steps in this direction should soon be taken. His personal inclination would be to recommend at once the appointment of a Royal Commission to go thoroughly into the question and advise the Government as to the best steps to be taken in order to bring the matter to a successful conclusion. If it were possible to find the funds after a commission was appointed, and had recommended to the Government the necessary steps to be taken, it would require little pressure to induce the Ministry to authorise the placing of the necessary money required on the Estimates.

Registered July 31st 08

SCHOLARSHIPS AND POLITICS.
 The Australian Christian Commonwealth writes:—"It is rumoured that the Adelaide University authorities are considering a scheme for reducing the value of several scholarships now tenable at our seat of learning. No reasons for this step have as yet been made public. It is quite probable that at an early date an attempt will be made to raise the salaries of some of the professors. We sincerely hope that there is no connection between these rumours. It is also whispered that one or more of the present open competitive scholarships may in future be awarded not by examination results, but by the recommendation of a sort of patronage board. Such a reactionary policy ought to be impossible at such an hour of the day as this, and it is to be hoped that wiser counsels will prevail to keep the gate open to fair competition. We learn with regret of other disquieting rumours concerning the Rhodes scholarship. Dr. Parkin says that in the administration of the Rhodes scholarships the most disappointing thing he has met is the reluctance of young men from the United States to enter the public life of that country. They claim that it is exceedingly hard to find a straight road into public life. He claims, also, that a similar difficulty meets the young man in Canada. He speaks of a young Canadian who was skilled in a particular line, and said that there was an opening in Canada for which he was probably the only one who was qualified. But instead of the man being appointed to the position, his name was promptly referred to the local member to find out his father's politics. We trust that Australia may be spared the indignity of being similarly humiliated. Young men of talent and force of character are not going to fawn upon politicians in order to secure positions, and they will not seek to enter public life through backstairs influence. Evidently in scholarships the price of liberty is still eternal vigilance!"

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DOCTORS AND CORPSES.
 To the Editor.
 Sir—It was with sorrow and disgust that I, as a doctor, read the account of the interview with Professor Watson. The profession and the general community are greatly indebted to that gentleman for his valuable work in connection with surgery. His enthusiasm in the pursuit of knowledge knows no bounds. In private life he is a kindly, tender-hearted, generous man, but his annexation of the skull of the aboriginal was wholly inexcusable, though he may have thought he was doing no wrong in obtaining the skull. It is only a few years since that Dr. Ramsay Smith was suspended from his position as coroner for annexing the head (or was it the body) of Tommy Walker, but at an official enquiry he was shown to have committed no offence, and he was reinstated in his position. The verdict was received with equanimity by the community, and Parliament voted about £1,000 to recoup Dr. Smith for his expenses without any hesitation. Under these circumstances it is not unreasonable to think that Professor Watson may have argued that if in this case the Coroner did no wrong, he had a perfect right to act in a similar manner.—
 I am, &c.,
 MEDICUS.

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SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE UNIVERSITY.
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 To the Editor.
 Sir—It has been felt that some remarks of mine reported in your issue of July 18, suggested a want of confidence in the professors of our University. It is difficult to see how such an inference could be drawn from my words, but as I am assured that it has been, I should be greatly obliged if you would allow me to disclaim it. Advocating the general principle of deciding scholarships by special examinations surely can be done without implying that awards here have been unfair or are likely to be.—
 I am, &c.,
 FREDERIC CHAPPLE.
 Prince Alfred College, July 31, 1908.

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ORGAN RECITAL.
 The fifth of a series of six organ recitals by Dr. Ennis was given in the Conservatorium of Music on Saturday afternoon. The concert was splendidly attended, and some grand music was heard. The professor opened with a fantasia sonata by Rheinberger. The first movement is founded upon two chorale themes—slow movement and fugue, during which the principal theme of the first movement is introduced. Miss Nora Kyllin Thomas played two violin solos with exquisite effect, the first being a sonata in G major, by Tartini, and the second a romance in F (Beethoven). The "Marche Funebre, et Chant Seraphique," by Guilmant, was one of the features of the afternoon, but Dr. Ennis' most brilliant performance was "St. Ann's fugue" (Bach), the first movement in variations of Widor's fifth symphony. The Toccata, from the same composer's "Widor's fifth organ symphony," concluded a splendid programme.
 The sixth and last organ recital will be given by Dr. Ennis on Thursday evening, August 8, at the Conservatorium. Dr. Ennis will be assisted by Mrs. Ennis (violinist) and Miss Ethel Hanke (soprano). Admission will be free, by tickets, to be obtained from the lady superintendent of the Conservatorium.

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ALLEGED MUTILATION OF BODIES.
 The Chief Secretary (Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick) has called for reports concerning the alleged mutilation of bodies at the West Terrace Cemetery. He has already received a communication from the police, and is now awaiting advices from the Hospital Board before taking action.