

do first year Engineering or Science or First year arts because none of these imply biology. All these things can be done at once if you have the staff and equipment. There is an enormous field that can be covered by the educated student at any time.

Sir James Barrett then read an extract from the University Report as follows:-

COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS

Last year the Council had to record the request which came from Ballarat for the establishment of a University college in that City; and this year the Council had to deal with a request from Bendigo for the raising of the natural degree examinations there. Both of these requests raised points of such difficulty but the fact that they were seen as a cause for gratification, particularly when viewed together, they are evidence of the spread through the country of a realisation of what the University stands for, or the need for the highest education and the desire for those who feel the difficulties of getting it, to have those difficulties lessened. With such desires the Council cannot but deeply sympathise, and those concerned may be assured that any such requests are approached entirely sympathetically and with the desire to do what is best educationally. This may not always, in the opinion of the Council coincide with the granting of the request. For example, it cannot be decided to be in the interests of education to put before students any consideration which is likely to lessen the incentive to attend lectures. The student who sets out to study away from the University, with the aid of notes-of-a-kind supplied to him, and by privately reading, probably the volumes of the books prescribed may acquire an adequate knowledge to enable him to pass the examination. But he may still have gaps in his knowledge and hold wrong ideas which the examination has failed fully to reveal. In addition he may suffer from serious errors of speech, and the live, which work him as being really uneducated, and render him an unsafe guide to those who may look up to him because of his qualifications, and unreasonably to estimate his limitations. These defects are of a kind that naturally to a large extent cure themselves when a student attends the lectures of a master of his subject, and lives among a number of fellow students.

In the case of the Bendigo request the Council felt that as attendance at University instruction is not at present compulsory on Arts and Law students, there was no sound ground for refusing it, and has accordingly granted it, subject to certain safeguards. It has further however asked the Professorial Board to consider the question of modifying the regulations which permit total abstention from attendance at lectures. If all students were required to attend the University during at least one year of their course, it would probably be to the advantage of the University as well as their own; and although it would doubtless be difficult for some students to comply it could probably be done if necessary.

It has recently been ascertained that 20 per cent of the students attending the University are country students; and this takes no account of the considerable number of students who are not attending, but will enter for the annual examinations.

Sir James Barrett continued - We all feel that contact with a teacher is an essential thing in the work. And there is another thing to consider that is that if the University cannot get sufficient money from the Government to carry on, Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo are not likely to succeed in that way. The Registrar has written

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