Court of Session for adjudication. The court decided that the sole government of the university in all points, even in regulating the conditions of graduation, the course of study, and method of instruction, is vested in the town council. The council however has the discretion to leave matters of discipline and ordinary detail to the principal and pro­fessors ; and the regulations which are from time to time made by them, are considered valid unless they are disal­lowed by the patrons.

For a considerable period the college was limited to the faculty of arts ; the other faculties were successively recog­nised, as the course of instruction was extended. The me­dical school, which has of late years become so famous, had its origin so recently as the end of the seventeenth century, there being no professor of medicine previously to the year 1685. The school of law is still more modern. The class of public law was instituted in 1707, of civil law in 1710, of Scotish law generally, in 1722, and that of the theory and practice of conveyancing in 1825.

From what has already been stated, it will appear that the con­stitution of the university of Edinburgh differs essentially from that of other universities. Indeed it cannot, be said to have any independent or well-defined constitution ; the patrons being in­vested with the powers generally given to the universities them­selves. No power is conferred upon it by the charter as an inde­pendent conjuration, nor is any provision made for the appointment of public officers. There is no mention made of a chancellor ; and although in early times the name was occasionally taken by the provost of the city, this must be regarded as an unauthorized assumption. For a long time there has been no chancellor of the university. The case in regard to the offices of rector and dean of faculty is nearly the same. “ This important office,” (the office of rector), say the commissioners,@@1 “ has been much less efficient in Edinburgh than in the other universities ; and the existence of the office itself has been, apparently at least, suspended.” It was held by several persons, though with frequent intervals, till 1640, when the council resolved to elect a rector annually, with six asses­sors, two members of council, two ministers, and two professors. But in the beginning of last century the office of rector was permanently annexed to that of lord provost, who, as head of the council, al­ready possessed all the authority which could be deputed to the rector, and consequently the office, till within these few years, had become obsolete even in name. “ It is, accordingly, explicitly as­serted that no chancellor or vice-chancellor, rector or dean of faculty, exercises any authority or jurisdiction over the principal, professors, or students in the university of Edinburgh.”@@\* The business of the college is managed by a section of the town council, under the name of the college committee, who take charge of the revenue, communicate with the senate, and exercise a general superintendence over the seminary.

The Principal occupies an anomalous position ; he holds the same rank as the cognominal officers in the other universities, but apparently without any of the powers which the others exercise. Notwithstanding the stipulations made by the patrons to Kollock when lie was promoted to the office, his authority seems to be extremely limited. The principal has long ceased to teach a class, and he has not fur a considerable period taken an active part in su­perintending the instruction of any of the classes. He presides in the meetings of the senate, and is the official organ of the univer­sity in communicating with the crown, the patrons, and the public. Beyond this he does not appear, so far as we have been able to ascertain, to possess any real power or authority. The present principal reads lectures on biblical criticism, and has re­vived the ancient practice of delivering an annual address to the students.

The Academical Senate is composed of the principal and pro­fessors, who, in right of their appointment, become constituent members. The principal presides, and has both a *deliberative* and a *casting* vote. The senate claims the right of instituting new fa­culties, and of fixing the privileges and immunities belonging to them. This court, however, is not mentioned in the charter, nor does it appear to have ever been recognised by the patrons, as pos­sessing any independent powers. The meetings of the senate are called by the principal, or any member of the theological faculty.

The university contains the four Faculties of divinity, law, me­dicine, and arts, each of which has a dean, chosen by the faculty. The term Faculty was originally employed to denote the whole body of professors in their corporate capacity, but this applica­tion of it has long been supplanted by the designation of the senate. After the institution of a separate professorship of divinity, the two sets of professors were designated as the faculty of arts, and the faculty of divinity ; but the precise time at which the distinct sections were recognised is nowhere recorded. It is to be borne in mind, however, that the four faculties merely per­form certain duties under the senate, without whose sanction their proposals and regulations cannot be carried into effect. The faculty of arts comprehends the professors of languages and philosophy, with those of mathematics, rhetoric, practical astronomy, and universal history. The professor of natural history belongs to the faculty of medicine. The professors of agriculture and music have not yet been attached to any of the faculties.

The total Revenue of the university, derived from original pro­perty, from parliamentary enactments, from royal grants, and from the benefactions of individuals, amounted in 1825 to about L.3770. In this sum was included the income of the bursars, amounting to L.420. Of the remainder, the principal part was made up of the royal grants, which then amounted to L.1435, and were given as salaries to certain professors. A large portion of the college funds, amounting to L.13,119, having been under the management of the magistrates and town council, and being involved in the late embarrassment of the city’s affairs, the act of settlement in 1838 provides an annual “ sum of L.2500 for the maintenance and support of the college and schools of the said city, in full of all demands," &c. ; and adds, that the said sum “ shall be applied by the lord provost, magistrates, and council of the city, in defraying the obligations and payments incumbent upon them in relation to the debts due by the said city to the said college, in paying the salaries and house-rents due to or on ac­count of the professors, in repairing and maintaining the college buildings, and in the other necessary expenses thereof, and the remainder towards the schools and educational purposes of the city in consideration of which payment, the “ college debt” of L.13,119 is declared to be extinguished.

By the will of General Reid, dated 1806, a large bequest was made to the senate for endowing a professorship of music, adding to the library, and otherwise promoting the general interest of the university. This bequest, after being liferented by the tes­tator’s daughter, lately became available to the university. It amounted, after deduction of legacy-duty and expenses, to L.62,500. A professorship of music has since been established, and the series of annual concerts appointed by the will has been commenced.

The Bursaries attached to the university are thirty-four, the benefit of which is extended to eighty students : their aggregate value is L.1172 a year. Three are of the annual value of L.100; the others vary from L.30 to L.5 and under.

There are two Sessions. The winter session commences on the first Tuesday of November, and closes in the end of April. The summer session, during which a few classes of the medical faculty are taught, begins on the first Monday of May, and terminates at the end of July. The theological session is somewhat shorter. Each student pays a matriculation fee of L.1. No certain order for the attendance of classes, is prescribed by the statutes. At­tendance on certain classes, however, is requisite for those who are destined to particular professions, or who aspire to academi­cal degrees. It is recommended to students who mean to follow out a regular course of study in the faculty of arts, and it is enjoined on those preparing for the church, or proceeding to degrees, that they commence with the classes of languages and mathematics.

Candidates for the degree of Master of Arts must be in the fourth year of their academical studies, and must have attended the classes of humanity, Greek, mathematics, logic, rhetoric, moral and natural philosophy. They are required to give in their names to the dean of faculty on or before the last day of March. The ex­aminations take place in April, and continue for three days, from twelve to four each day. The candidates are required to give written answers to questions, and translations of passages from classical authors put into their hands. Those who are found en­titled to the degree are classified in the order of their proficiency, as ascertained by the results of the examinations ; and the list of graduates so classified is affixed to the college gates, suspended in the library, and advertised in the newspapers. Students at the close of the third year of the regular curriculum of arts are ad­mitted to that part of the examination which relates to classical pro­ficiency ; and those who avail themselves of this permission are examined in mathematics and philosophy at the close of the fourth year of their studies. The examinations are conducted by the professors of the faculty.

Arrangements have lately been made by the theological faculty for reviving the degree of B. D. Students who have finished

@@@, Report, p. 114.

@@@, Report, p. 115.