

Adv. 13-12-32 cont.

Advertiser 14-12-32

John Jefferson Bray and Brian Oswald Hunter (equal).
 Faculty of Arts.—Barr Smith prize for Greek—James Lawrence Allen. Andrew Scott prize for Latin—J. L. Allen. James Gartrell prize for Comparative Philology—William Nicholle Oats. Tormore prize for English Essays—Griseida Margaret Moore. Bunday prize for English Verse—Elizabeth Wynne Wells. Roby Fletcher prize for Psychology and Logic—Mary Philomena Carroll.
 Faculty of Science.—Angas Engineering Scholarship—Max Aubrey Hunt. (proxime accessit) William Charles Robert Brooke. John L. Young Scholarship—Alan Beavis Beck. Ernest Ayers Scholarship in Forestry—D'Arcy Ananda Nell Cromer. John Bagot Scholarship for Botany—Nancy Maud Ray. (proxime accessit) George Dixon Hubble. Tate Memorial Medal—Clifford Rooney.
 Faculty of Medicine.—Elder Prize. First Examination—Alexander McQueen Thomson. Dr. Davies Thomas Scholarship—Third Examination, Harold Richard Hugh Noel Oaten. Fourth Examination, William Bernhard Dorsch. Everard Scholarship, Final Examination—James Hugo Gray, Malcolm William Miller, Richard Joseph O'Connor, and Leonard James Ternouth Pellet (equal). Dr. Charles Gosse Medal for Ophthalmology, Charles William Russell Price. B.M.A. (Section of Clinical Medicine) Prize in Medicine—Malcolm William Miller and Richard Joseph O'Connor (equal). David Murray Scholarship—James Hugo Gray. Hoffmann-La-Roche Prizes for Pharmacology—Junior prizes—Graham Leslie Bennett and Neil Daniel Crosby (equal).

THE NEWS

ADELAIDE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1932

PRO'S AND CON'S OF EXAMINATIONS

WHEN the schools wind up their year's work parents are summoned into the presence of head masters and head mistresses to watch their offspring receive (or fail to receive) prizes. Then it is that the public expects to hear some frank home truths about the practical effect of our education system.

This year they have not been disappointed. Already several school principals have said a number of hard things about the examination system, and the "forcing" of boys and girls which it entails. Such complaints from individual parents cannot carry the weight that they do when they are uttered by the head of a big school. The parent may have been hoodwinked by the histrionic sighs of little Tommy or poor little Norah, whose homework was keeping them from the delights of an adventure story. As boys and girls well know, school masters and mistresses are not easily duped, and when they say that the examination system is militating against education in the true and broad sense of the word, their words deserve the most scrupulous attention.

Yesterday the principal of Ellerslie College (Mrs. A. B. Morgan-Brock) said that, because public examinations had a monetary value, many parents wished their children to be crammed through these examinations in the shortest possible time. This, she pointed out, often does irreparable harm to the child, and does not represent education in the sense of developing intellect and character.

The head mistress of Girton (Mrs. Angove), on the eve of her retirement, made a thoughtful and helpful criticism of the whole system. She thinks that girls, in the interests of passing public examinations, are taught a number of subjects which most of them will never need in later life. Consequently useful and cultural subjects are neglected, in order to make room in the school calendar for extraneous ones.

What is true of the girls' schools applies in much the same way to boys. But, in spite of all criticisms, the fact remains that this is a mercenary world, where the object of education must first of all be to provide young people with weapons to make a living. Only when that has been accomplished can "cultural subjects" receive attention.

No one who thinks about it for a moment can believe that crammed knowledge is good. Cultural learning—which, for the more advanced students is incorporated in an arts course at a university—maketh a full man, and if it holds the interest of the student it will do his character and his mind more good than a compulsory gorging of unpleasant but practical subjects.

It would be interesting if these critics of our education system would go a step further and suggest a substitute for cramming for examinations. For the fact remains that parents want to see their children go forth armed into life, and leaving or intermediate certificates are the only weapons which they can give them today. No one yet has come forward with a workable substitute for that bane of school life—the public examination.

SIMPLER CURRICULUM FOR EXAMINATIONS

Mrs. Angove Supported UNIVERSITY CONSIDERING SCHEME

Varying Proposals At Prize-Givings

The plea for a simpler examination curriculum and fewer extraneous interests for school children, advanced by Mrs. E. L. Angove, headmistress of Girton Girls' School at the school speech day on Monday, was strongly supported by other educationists at school functions yesterday.

The University Council is considering a scheme for specific examinations for matriculation instead of making the leaving certificate the standard for entrance to the University.

The headmistress of Oreeven (Miss K. Cussen) ascribed the success of an exhibitioner to the fact that she came of a Dutch family, settled in South Australia for only a few years, which knew few people, and thus found most of their pleasures in their own home.

Miss Cussen said that there was too much entertainment of school-going girls, which gave a wrong attitude towards work, and which only the parents could alter. In the past term it had led school authorities to make definite rules about going out. They were loyally received and kept, but to obtain a large measure of success in exacting examinations, the rule should have been in force throughout the year.

One Examination, Three Functions

Professor McKellar Stewart, at the Walford House speech day, said the present system of examinations was trying to fulfil three different functions, namely, as a test of the ability for those going to the University, to test the general standard of culture reached by students, and to find the individual capacity to enter into some work in the community. They had one set of examinations, and it was realised in the University that, although it would do for the training required for the 10 per cent. of boys and girls who went on to the University, the schools should be left free to provide for the 90 per cent. who would not. A different curriculum should be drawn up to fit them for the country's need.

"Killing True Education"

In her annual report, Miss M. J. Baker (head mistress of Walford House school) said she had come to the conclusion that the system of external examination was killing true education. Her own feelings were that the schools and not the scholars should be examined and inspected. Each school, after having been established, and proved itself, should be allowed to issue its own leaving certificates.

Fewer Subjects for Intermediate

At the speech day in the Glenelg Town Hall, Miss D. Gillam (headmistress of Woodlands Church of England Girls' Grammar School) said she had no real objection to examinations, which acted as an incentive to girls at an age when something of the kind was needed, nor did she wish to see the examinations made easier. "But I would like to see the number of subjects necessary for an intermediate pass lowered to four, as in Sydney," she said. "Anyone going on to the University would still have to take the subjects necessary for matriculation, but that would give a chance to the girl who may need a certificate to obtain a position and who could not manage to pass in more than four subjects."

Careers Not Mapped Out

"I think the curriculum is overloaded, but I would not like to be one of a committee to delete the unnecessary subjects," stated Mr. J. Bills, principal of King's College, yesterday. If students came to school with their careers mapped out it might be possible to delete some subjects, he said, but not one boy in a thousand knew what he wanted to do. The best idea was to give a boy a wide general education, and after having passed the Intermediate examination let him decide on his career and specialise in one subject.

Concentration On Essentials

A scheme for the simplification of

the examination curriculum has already been prepared by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell).

The Registrar (Mr. F. W. Eardley) said the scheme had been brought before a University conference a couple of years ago. It had not been formulated in South Australia, although the University Council had approved the principle.

Mr. Anthony, M.P., who is a member of the University Council, said the object of Sir William Mitchell's scheme was to enable students to concentrate on essentials. It had been receiving consideration from the council for several years.

"The idea is," he said, "to set specific examinations for matriculation instead of making the leaving examination the standard for entrance to the University. The subjects would include English literature, Latin or French, or perhaps both, and mathematics."

Fewer Subjects, Sounder Grounding

There would be fewer subjects under the proposed scheme, added Mr. Anthony, but the grounding in each of them would be very much sounder. He considered the idea an excellent one because, with a multiplicity of subjects, the tendency was to cause shallowness in learning as an extensive curriculum dissipated mental energy and concentration. Sir William Mitchell's proposals would ensure a more solid foundation for education for the professions. So far as possible irrelevant or extraneous studies would be avoided, and direct methods pursued.

"The changes suggested in the curriculum," explained Mr. Anthony, "are still the subject of investigation. Sir William Mitchell's idea is to get uniformity throughout the Australian Universities regarding matriculation or entrance examinations. While, therefore, no alteration can be made for the present, the University authorities are proceeding with as much expedition as possible."

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ROSTREVOR COLLEGE REPORT

Examination Standard In English Praised

"The lecturers in charge of English at the University deserve the appreciation of teachers, not only for their endeavors to provide a reasonable standard, but also to make teachers acquainted with that standard," said the Rev. Bro. Rahill, in presenting the tenth annual report of Rostrevor Christian Brothers' College at the break-up. Criticism against the standard of English required, he said, could well be concentrated on some other subjects, such as mathematics, chemistry, and economics.

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Ten Years Ago

THE University of Adelaide has received a legacy of £30,000 under the will of Mrs. Jane Marks, of Hindmarsh, to be devoted to the interests of the medical school; and a gift of property valued at £20,000 from the estate jointly owned by the late Mrs. A. M. Simpson and her sister, Miss A. F. Keith Sheridan, intended for the advancement of medical research.

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University Appointments

The council of the University has made the following appointments for 1933:—

Faculty of Medicine.—Tutors in medicine, Drs. F. Ray Hone and Guy Lendon; surgery, Drs. A. T. Britten Jones and P. Santo Messent; obstetrics, Drs. J. R. S. G. Beard, H. M. Fisher, R. F. Matters, and B. H. Swift; radiology, Dr. H. C. Nott; assistant lecturer and demonstrator in physiology and pharmacology, Dr. R. F. Matters; instructor in anaesthetics, Dr. Gilbert Brown; demonstrator in biochemistry, Dr. E. U. Hubbe.
 Faculty of Dentistry.—Lecturer in dental metallurgy, Mr. F. W. Reid; demonstrator in orthodontic technique, Mr. P. Raymond Begg; prosthetics technique, Mr. L. A. M. Brougham; Crown and bridge work, Mr. R. J. Brazil Smith; instructor in prosthetic dentistry, Mr. R. J. Brazil Smith; anaesthetics, Dr. Gilbert Brown.
 Faculty of Law.—Lecturer in the law of property, parts I and II, Mr. E. W. Benham; Roman law, Mr. C. C. Brebner; jurisprudence, Mr. Herbert Mayo, K.C.
 Board of Commercial Studies.—Lecturer in statistics, Mr. K. F. Newman.

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FAMOUS SCIENTIST'S WORK ON GEOLOGY

SYDNEY, Monday.—Embracing a lifetime of scientific observation, a new work on geology by Prof. Sir Edgeworth David, the famous Australian scientist, is expected to be published about the end of next year. The work will be in three volumes.

The Commonwealth Government has given £500 towards the cost of the book, but Sir Edgeworth said today that this was for his out-of-pocket expenses. He was making no actual charge for his personal services.

The volumes will contain many photographs. Among them will be shown geological relations of New Zealand, Fiji, New Hebrides, and the Antarctic, with Australia.

The work will deal, too, with the development of animal and plant life and mineral resources. Sir Edgeworth will also review and summarise the work of his early geological colleagues and personalities.