

BIG CONCESSION IN PUBLIC EXAMS

English Not Compulsory For Intermediate Pass

UNIVERSITY'S NEW MOVE

A concession of outstanding value to candidates for the intermediate public examinations was announced by the Registrar of the Adelaide University (Mr. F. W. Eardley) today.

In future a failure in English literature will not mean a failure in the whole examination. Provided a candidate passes five other subjects and satisfies the examiner that he has an adequate grip of the English language he will be granted a pass for the intermediate.

Unfortunately for those who took part in the recent examination the concession will not be made retrospective, but will operate in the examination at the end of this year.

Science is becoming more and more important in the curriculums of all schools, and so much time is being devoted to it that students are finding it difficult to reach the standard in English literature expected of them by the board of examiners.

In the 1931 intermediate examination 2255 candidates sat for English literature and of that number 933 failed. As English was a compulsory subject (the only one), it meant that those 933 candidates were deprived of the chance of obtaining their certificate until they sat again for the subject at the next examination—however many other subjects they passed, with or without honors.

A careful count of the figures for the 1932 examination has not yet been made, but it is anticipated that about the same number failed in English again.

STUDENTS HANDICAPPED

Realising that some candidates to whom English was a secondary study were being handicapped through its being the one compulsory subject, the University authorities have decided that in future a candidate may secure a certificate if he "shall have taken the examination in English literature and shall have either passed in that subject or satisfied the examiners of his ability to use the language as an instrument of expression."

The 1931 figures make it plain how valuable the concession may be. If all the failures in English had been reviewed and passed, the percentage of successful candidates would have jumped from 31 to 76 per cent.

To obtain the intermediate certificate a candidate had to take six subjects, English being compulsory, and the remaining five being a choice from among 20 set out in the syllabus. It will now still be necessary to take English, but the examiners

will have discretionary powers to grant a certificate without a pass in English.

Another reason why the pass list is not as high as some people think it should be is that many candidates take less than the required number of subjects the first year. It is essential to obtain four passes the first year, otherwise they do not count toward a certificate later.

Some students, in the circumstances, prefer to concentrate on the minimum number of subjects and make reasonably certain of them, and then take the remaining subjects later.

The new English concession will probably do away with a lot of disappointment next year.

The fee for the examination is 30/ up to eight subjects, and 7/6 for any separate subject, so that the 3,000 children who took part in the recent examination contributed approximately £4,500 in fees.

Much of this money comes out of the pockets of those who can ill-afford the expense, and this naturally causes intense disappointment when the children fail inexplicably in their examination.

CHOOSING SYLLABUS

The Public Examinations Committee, which decides a syllabus for the year and submits it to the Public Examination Board for approval, comprises University lecturers, the Director of Education (Mr. W. J. Adey), principals of leading colleges for boys and girls, and representatives of public and commercial schools, and of the School of Mines and School of Arts and Crafts.

It is on this syllabus that the Public Examinations Board bases its papers.

At the University it was pointed out today that for a nominal sum persons interested could purchase the manual of the Public Examinations Board, which included the syllabuses for the year, examination papers for the previous year, and 45 pages of notes by examiners.

By studying these papers and the notes of the examiners, candidates would learn the type of question to expect, and what was expected of them by the examiners.

GIRLS EXCEL IN ARTS

What Examination Results Show

BOYS PRACTICAL

South Australian educationists are not all prepared to admit that girls are more intelligent than boys. Following successes achieved by girls at the leaving certificate examinations in New South Wales, as published in the Sydney letter in "The Advertiser" yesterday, women claimed they had more intelligence than boys.

Results of the recent leaving examinations at Adelaide show that honors were fairly evenly divided. While girls showed greater aptitude for several languages and history, boys excelled in the more practical subjects.

In English and French girls topped the list of credits, a girl won the Tennyson medal for English. Of 20 credits awarded in English 12 were secured by girls. There were only six boys in the 14 candidates who secured honors in French.

Boys gained six of the seven credits in German, the two credits in Greek, and 16 of the 18 credits in Latin. Eight of the 13 credits in ancient history went to boys, although a girl topped the list. Highest honors in economics, mathematics (I. and II.), physics, chemistry, agricultural science, book-keeping, and drawing went to boys, but in geology, botany, physiology, and shorthand girls were superior. Botany and physiology appealed especially to girls, and they secured all the credits, and all but one in shorthand. On the other hand, of 37 credits awarded in mathematics only two went to girls.

Mr. Adey Cautious

There was an equal division of honors in economic history and arithmetic, a boy and girl sharing highest honors in each subject.

"It is very difficult to differentiate," said the Director of Education (Mr. Adey), when asked whether he thought boys or girls were the more intelligent. "I have taught thousands of children, but, without making an exhaustive analysis, I would not care to express an opinion one way or the other. I think girls excel in the arts, music, languages, literature, and botany, but that in mathematics and science boys are superior. Sometimes, of course, boys do show aptitude for languages, and girls for science.

"It is generally recognised that girls and women have greater powers of concentration, and pay more attention to detail, but for broad generalisations and original study, men are superior," said the Superintendent of Technical Education (Dr. Fenner). "I believe that men are more emotional. That is borne out by the fact that the great poets and artists of all ages have been men."

A view expressed by another authority was that women are more imaginative than men, hence their success in the arts. To a man a tree was merely a tree, for instance, but to a woman, with her wider vision, it was a thing of beauty. Men excelled in mathematics because the subject provided something tangible to study.

TO TEACH AT CONSERVATORIUM

Mr. Harry Wotton And Dr. Alex Burnard

NEW APPOINTMENTS

The University Council has made two important appointments to the staff of the Elder Conservatorium — Mr. Harry Wotton and Dr. Alex Burnard.

Following the resignation of Mr. Harold Denton a year ago, the position as teacher of singing held by him in succession to Mr. Clive Carey fell vacant. It has now been filled by the appointment of Mr. Wotton, a South Australian who, for several years, has lived in London. Mr. Wotton made an intensive study of singing under



Dr. Burnard Mr. Wotton

the famous master, Dinh Gilly, with whom he remained for four years. He appeared several times in West-End theatres, and was engaged by the B.B.C. for broadcasting work. Mr. Wotton's voice is a basso cantant. He has a wide repertoire of classic lieder, singing as well in German, French and Italian as in English. His knowledge of stage work is extensive, having had years of association with the productions of J. C. Williamson, including his most recent engagement in "Autumn Crocus." For two years Mr. Wotton was teaching in London. It is expected that he will give a vocal recital in the Elder Hall early in March.

Dr. Burnard, who has been appointed teacher of composition and orchestration, recently won the unique distinction of the Doctorate in Music. He also is a South Australian, and a distinguished graduate of the University of Adelaide. Before taking his Mus. Doc. he studied composition and orchestration in London under the famous British composer, Vaughan Williams.

Boys Secure More Honors In Intermediate Exam.

Results of the recent University intermediate examinations reveal that a greater number of honors went to boys, who secured 440 of the 648 certificates issued.

Girls excelled in English, in which they were awarded 31 of the 48 certificates. In French, they secured 20 of the 39 certificates; in history, 10 out of 16; in typewriting, 12 out of 14; in geology, 12 out of 21; in physiology, the nine certificates awarded; in shorthand, 12 out of 14; and in botany, the eight honors given.

In arithmetic the girls were badly beaten by the boys, securing only 25 certificates out of 125 awarded. In mathematics also they were far behind. The boys won 104 of the 119 certificates. Honors in bookkeeping were evenly divided, but in physics, chemistry, drawing, Greek, Latin, German, and agricultural science, girls were quite outnumbered.

Of the 2,823 candidates who were examined, 2,185 secured passes, and 648 certificates.

Dr. Grenfell Price, Professor Elton Mayo, and Dr. R. C. Bald have been appointed by the Council of the Adelaide University to represent it at the 37th annual meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science at Philadelphia in April. Dr. Price is now in America enquiring into problems of tropical countries, with special reference to the Northern Territory. Dr. Bald is in England continuing his study of English literature. Professor Mayo is professor of industrial research at Harvard University.

University Union And Student Activities

Since the Adelaide University Union Building was completed in 1929, there has been a steady increase in the number of student members of the University Union. Students have made much use of their union building, and last year more than 100 social events were held. With the exception of the annual University Footlights Club revue, and a few inter-varsity and faculty dinners, and perhaps a few others, all were held at the University. At the students' carnival, the cabaret, the University, and other short plays, the concert members of the public attended.

Students from other Australian Universities have often remarked upon the co-operative spirit among students of the various faculties and sporting bodies of Adelaide University, and have stated that Adelaide University stands out for entertainment of inter-varsity visitors.

Male members of the Union are looking forward to the time when they will have quarters like those that women students now enjoy in the Lady Symon Buildings, where they would be able to conduct their social activities, club and union meetings, debates, and other such affairs pertaining to men at the University.