

Register December 8th 1884

THE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—There has just been carried in the Senate of the University of Adelaide a resolution to the effect “that in the opinion of the Senate it is desirable to allow a candidate to be examined in four divisions of the optional subjects instead of three.” This resolution will, I presume, be forwarded to the Council for their consideration, and I hope that the Council will not carry it into effect. The mover of the resolution is reported to have said that he did not think three divisions gave a boy enough work for a year after the junior examination had been passed. Will you allow me to sketch a year’s work for a boy who proposes to enter for the three divisions which will secure the highest marks? Division A, classics, 700 marks. The work here includes one book of Virgil, one book of Cicero, and two books of Plato, as well as a thorough knowledge of the grammar and syntax of both Greek and Latin, also the ability to write a piece of prose in both languages. Division B, mathematics, 500 marks. This includes the theory of the various processes of arithmetic, six books of Euclid, algebra to the binomial theorem, and elementary trigonometry. The same division in the junior examination includes only two books of Euclid, and algebra to simple equations. By-the-by, it appears from the last examination-paper that boys, in studying mathematics, are expected to become quite familiar with playing cards, for the following question was set without any explanation:—“Find the total number of pips in a pack of cards.” In addition to these two divisions, in order to secure the highest marks a boy must take either Division C, modern languages, or Division F, natural science. Should he chose modern languages he must read one French work, one German work, be ready to translate one or two previously unseen passages from each language, be well up in the grammar of both languages, and be able to translate easy passages from English. Or if he choose natural science he will study animal physiology, and will be expected to show a practical acquaintance with this subject, such as identifying and preparing microscopic objects, exercise in dissection, &c., as well as a thorough knowledge of one or two text-books. He will study botany, and he will study geology, in which subject practical acquaintance as well as bookwork is expected. Have we not here more than enough work for a year? There is variety as well as quantity. Two languages, mathematics, and three branches of natural science surely afford variety enough. I am afraid, Sir, that if the candidates have an opportunity of taking four divisions instead of three the result will be either over-pressure on the boys who are being prepared for examination or a superficial knowledge of four divisions instead of a thorough knowledge of three.

I am, Sir, &c.,

TEACHER.

Register December 9/84

EVENING LECTURES AT THE
UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—In your issue of the 4th inst. I note with interest the report of the Adelaide University Senate. The motion of Mr. Caterer at that meeting ought to mark an epoch in the history of the institution. A colonial University which is so far ahead of the times as to have a Chair of Music and yet no systematic course of evening lectures is at once a curious instance of progress and want of life. It is surprising to hear that Professor Tate's evening lectures were so poorly attended. Where were all the members of the Field Naturalists' Club? Two years ago Professor Lamb gave a course of evening lectures to a good audience—for Adelaide—on "The Electrical Transmission of Power." It is true they were given very opportunely, the air was charged with electricity at that time, and an Electric-light Company was floated forthwith. In a community like ours very little interest is taken in anything except that which has a commercial value, but surely a few scores of men and women might be found who take some interest in things outside their "shop." Some there are who, engaged during the day, would be glad of the opportunity for intellectual culture in the evenings. The advantages offered by the University to such are meagre in the extreme. By the establishment of evening lectures the scope of the Professors would be widened and their influence felt throughout the community. Even so conservative an institution as the University of Cambridge does not disdain to adapt herself to modern times, and has for many years past extended the benefits of her teaching to the principal towns of the midland counties by conducting a series of evening lectures, with

what result may be judged from the fact that the University College, Nottingham, owes its origin mostly to the Cambridge University extension scheme. And so obscure a University as Durham has followed in the same line and established, first in the surrounding towns, and lately even in the colliery villages of that district, courses of winter evening lectures. Those delivered under the auspices of Durham University were not given with a view to preparing candidates for degrees. An examination was held at the end of the course, and certificates granted to successful students. The most popular subjects were English history, political economy, and physical geography. By adopting Mr. Caterer's motion the University of Adelaide will still further increase her reputation, and at the same time confer benefits not easily estimated on those now outside her influence.

I am, Sir, &c.,

NOVOCASTRIAN.

Register December 9/84

COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Collegiate Schools' Association was held at Hahndorf College on Saturday, December 6. Mr. J. F. Sunter, B.A., Vice President, occupied the chair in the absence of the President (Mr. T. Caterer), who was unable to be present through illness. There was a good attendance of members, the majority of whom went from Adelaide, and were met at the Amble-side Station and conveyed to Hahndorf by Mr. T. W. Boehm, who had several vehicles in attendance for this purpose. The following report, read by the SECRETARY (Mr. T. A. Caterer, B.A.), was adopted on the motion of Mr. CHURCHWARD, B.A., seconded by Mr. BOEHM:—

The close of another year imposes upon your committee the pleasant duty of recording the annals of the Collegiate Schools' Association for another twelve months in its history, and of recounting (so far as they can be tabulated) their practical outcome and fruitage. "*Conjuncti et omnibus prosint*" is the corporate motto of our fair city, and we, too, may claim this as our motto, but with a higher motive and a deeper purpose. It is ours to foster and conserve all that experience has proved to be valuable in our present methods, to give an intelligent and candid hearing to those who claim to be educational inventors and reformers, to put their schemes through the crucible of practice, so that we may prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good in high-class education. Those members who have found time to attend the ordinary meetings have found the various papers read and discussions initiated hopeful and suggestive, and this is a form of mutual help which cannot be too much appreciated, and which is capable of the greatest expansion and usefulness. We claim that this Association has already done good service to higher education, but had it not done more than promote a spirit of friendliness, harmony, and good fellowship, and a deeper interest in and consideration for those who are co-workers in the department of higher education, it would have given ample proof of its "reasons to be." We trust that the year on which we enter to-day may prove memorable for the growth of the true philosophic spirit combined with a practical issue, and last, if not least, with a growing spirit of friendship and goodwill amongst all our members. Reviewed in order are matters of interest to the members and the subjects that have engaged the greatest amount of attention during the year.

Meetings of the Association.—During the year seven ordinary meetings of the Association have been held, with an average attendance of nearly seventeen, an attendance somewhat larger than that of last year. The interest of members has been maintained as fully as that of any previous year. The executive has met seven times for the conduct of the business, with an average attendance of nearly six.

Membership.—During the year we have elected seven members, and for the first time in the history of our Association death has entered its ranks and removed one of its most prominent members. Our roll at the present stands—Thirty-eight ordinary and nine honorary members, making forty-three altogether.

Papers and Discussions.—Besides the President's inaugural address, delivered at Whinham College, papers upon subjects of practical interest have been read by the following members:—"The Value of Latin in the School Curriculum," Mr. T. A. Caterer, B.A.; "The Best Method of Teaching Latin," Mr. J. F. Sunter, B.A.; "School Discipline," Mrs. Martin; "The History of Gymnastics," Mr. A. Leschen. Discussions have been initiated on—"Boys' Memories," Rev. F. Williams, M.A.; "The Value of History in the School," the President. The committee would urge members not to lose sight of the value of such contributions, and trust during the coming year that even a greater number will bring forward subjects touching upon the general work of the teacher in order that the objects and aims of this Association may be fulfilled in the highest degree, viz:—"To encourage higher education in the colony; to improve the methods employed in it; and to establish and maintain friendly and beneficial relations amongst those engaged in teaching in the collegiate schools."

Equalizing School Terms.—During the year a satisfactory solution has been worked out of a matter that has received attention more or less during the last three years, namely, the "uniformity of holidays." In November, 1883, a sub-committee of Principals met, and the following scheme, embodying the principle that the terms should be as nearly as possible of equal length, was adopted:—Easter Term, eleven weeks (including vacation one week); Midwinter Term, ten weeks and three weeks' vacation; Michaelmas Term, eleven weeks and one week's vacation; Christmas Term, eleven weeks and five weeks' vacation. This scheme has been carried out faithfully during the present year, and has proved a great boon to the various visiting masters. It will be necessary for members to consider the advisability of adopting a similar scheme for 1885, the one which has been in operation this year being only a tentative measure.