

Register December 14/86.

UNIVERSITY JUNIOR EXAMINATION.

The following results of the University November Junior Examination were posted at the University on Monday afternoon. For the first time an examination was held outside the Adelaide University. This examination was held at Mount Gambier under the supervision of Dr. Craig and the Rev. Mr. Caldwell. There were three candidates from the local High School—C. L. Spehr, A. G. Innes, and J. Sincock—and all of them passed, the first two in the second class and Sincock in the third class. The subjects in which the candidates passed are thus indicated:—A, English; B1, Latin; B2, Greek; C1, French; C2, German; D, Mathematics; E1, Chemistry; E2, Physics; E3, Botany; E4, Animal Physiology; E5, Physical Geography. An asterisk indicates that the candidate passed with credit:—

First Class, in order of merit—Agnes M. Johanna Heyne, C1*, C2*, D*, E4, E5* (Advanced School); Jessie Adcock, C1, C2*, D, E4*, E5* (do.); Helen E. Rosman, C1, C2, D, E4, E5* (do.); W. E. Dempster, B1, D*, E1, E2 (Prince Alfred College); Jane L. Gray, C1, C2, D, E4, E5 (Advanced School); W. J. McCarthy, B1, D*, E1, E2 (Prince Alfred College); W. Angel, B1, D*, E2 (Prince Alfred College); Maude E. Burnett, C1*, C2, D, E4, E5 (Advanced School); Mary Hague, C1*, C2, D, E4, E5* (Advanced School).

Second Class, in order of merit—Florence Miller, C1, C2, D, E4*, E5 (Advanced School); Arthur G. H. Evans, B1, C1, C2*, D (St. Peter's); E. A. D. Meller, B1, D*, E1, E2 (Prince Alfred College); C. L. Spehr, A, B1*, D (Mount Gambier High School); Lizzie Fraser, C1, D, E4*, E5* (Advanced School); R. F. Adamson, B1*, D, E1, E2 (Prince Alfred College); W. Carroll, B1, B2*, D (Christian Brothers); H. C. Bathurst, D*, E2 (Prince Alfred College); Ethel B. Cross, C1*, D, E4, E5 (Advanced School); P. Laycock, B1, C2, D (S.P.S.C.); Mary Weld, A*, C1, C2, E4, E5 (Advanced School); E. Bailey, B1, D, E1, E2 (Prince Alfred College); G. B. Hone, B1, D*, E2 (Prince Alfred College); J. S. Richards, B1, D, E1, E2 (Prince Alfred College); Isabel R. Cottrell, A, C1, C2, D, (Ladies' Collegiate School, Semaphore); Ellen C. Thorney, A*, C1, E4, E5 (do.); G. G. Braund, B1, D, E1, E2 (Prince Alfred College); Walter Trudinger, B1, C2, D (Prince Alfred College); T. G. Ellery, B1*, D, E4 (Whinham College); H. Eimer, B1, C2, D (S.P.S.C.); A. G. Innes, A, B1, D (High School, Mount Gambier); Edith M. Stow, A, C1, E4, E5 (Advanced School).

Third Class, in alphabetical order—Clara A. Balk, A, C2*, E4, E5 (Advanced School); Annie L. Bartels, A, C1, C2*, E4, E5 (do.); Percy A. Bickford, B1, D (S.P.S.C.); Mary M. Bonnin, A, C1 (Miss Meeks's classes); R. A. Campbell, B1, B2*, E1 (S.P.S.C.); J. Casey (Christian Brothers' College); Charlotte E. Chapman, A, E4, E5 (Advanced School); S. B. S. Cole, B1 C (S.P.S.C.); B. F. Conigrave, B1, D

(Prince Alfred College); Katharine H. Cox, A*, C1*, E3 (Miss Aldersey's School); Constance M. Cruickshank, A, E4*, E5 (Advanced School); Margaret F. De Mole, A, C1, E4, E5 (Mrs. Hübbe's School); Kate Drew, A*, D (Hardwicke College); A. Goode, B1, D (Glenelg Grammar School); Mabel F. Goode, A, C1, E3 (Miss Aldersey's School); W. J. Gunson, B1, D (Christian Brothers'); J. A. Haslam, D, E2 (Prince Alfred College); Civiall Hawkins, D, E2 (Prince Alfred College); Mary E. Henderson, A, C1, E4 (Advanced School); R. Hourigan, B1*, D (Christian Brothers'); F. J. Irwin, A, B1, C1 (Lancing School); May M. Kirby, C1, E5 (Miss Stenhouse); C. A. Lee, D, E5 (Norwood Public School); J. H. McNamara, B1, D (Christian Brothers'); Edith E. McRostie, A, C1, C2, E4, E5 (Advanced School); Selina Mannheim, A, E5 (do.); R. H. Miley, B1, D (Whinham College); J. Moroney, B1, D (Christian Brothers'); Dora J. Muecke, A, C2, E4, E5 (Advanced School); Florence M. Newberry, D, E5 (Norwood Public School); Evelyn E. Penny, A, C5 (Ladies' Collegiate School, Semaphore); T. S. Poole, B1, B2, C2 (S.P.S.C.); G. E. V. Reyher, B, B2, C2 (S.P.S.C.); Nellie F. Robin, A, C1, E3 (Miss Adamson's School); J. I. Sangster, B1, C2, D (S.P.S.C.); H. E. Scarfe, B1, D, E1 (S.P.S.C.); J. Sincock, B1, D (High School, Mount Gambier); Annie R. Stockdale, A*, C1* (Misses McMinn's); Beatrice C. Thallon, A, C1 (Ladies' College, South-terrace); Henrietta L. Thomas, A, C1, E4, E5 (Misses Thornber's); Dora I. Thomas, A, D (Misses McMinn's); F. C. W. Trudgen, B1, D (Prince Alfred College); Helen D. Whittam, A, C1, E5 (Miss Adamson's); Ada A. Wilson, A*, E3 (do.); W. R. Wilson, B1, D, E2 (Prince Alfred College); Ethel M. Wright, A, C1, E5 (Advanced School); W. E. Zsckecke, C2, D (Hahndorf College).

UNIVERSITY JUNIOR EXAMINATIONS.—In the report of the results of this examination the name of Miss Ellen G. Shorney, who passed second class, was erroneously printed C. Thorney.

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THE JUNIOR EXAMINATIONS.

The University has just concluded the last of the series of the Junior Examinations. Next year there will be the same kind of test under an altered name, but the Junior Examinations of November-December, 1886, may be held to mark the closing of a stage in an experiment. How this experiment has answered is a point upon which opinions will differ. It has at any rate done one thing. It has advertised the schools, and has contributed to increase the popularity of those which have sent up the largest number of successful candidates. It may be that on the whole no great injustice has been done through this result of the examinations, but we should be sorry to commit ourselves to such an opinion. The system has done so much to encourage "cram," and cram in itself is so apt to have a pernicious effect upon the child who has been subjected to it, that the mere fact of a particular school scoring so many passes is in itself no evidence of its merit as an educational establishment. Into the question of the value or worthlessness of competitive examinations we do not wish to enter now, nor is it desirable that we should seize the present opportunity of entering more than a protest against cramming, the handmaid of the present system. It is, however, fitting that the hope should be expressed that the University will, in the future, be more the trainer if not less the examiner of students, and that it will cease to hold as its chief function to act as the machine which tests the cramming work of the schools. It is indeed an important part of the duties of the highest educational body in the country to test the character and results of the education imparted at the schools, but a University which does not aim higher than to act as a Court of Registration—which indulges *ad libitum* in examining and only teaches as a kind of by-work—cannot take its proper position as an agent

for the dissemination of learning. The authorities have at length taken a step which has been persistently advocated in these columns. They have dissociated the testing of the schools from the higher education by the simple expedient of holding a certain set of examinations for one purpose, and another examination—a purely nominal one—for those who intend to take advantage of the opportunities for a University education. In other words, the Matriculation Examination will, after a few months, be no longer degraded. It will only be attempted by those who have intentions of graduating, and this time next year a matriculated student will be a person who has begun his higher education—not a person whose education is regarded by himself and his friends as finished.

For the junior examinations, which have now concluded, 159 boys and girls presented themselves. Of these only 78 passed. What does this mean? Does it mean that the standard of education has become lowered, that the schools are not so good as they used to be, or that the material on which the schools have to work has deteriorated? It must mean one of these things, unless we are inclined to believe that the examiners are becoming more severe. There is nothing to show that it is this last, and we are much afraid that the explanation is to be sought