

European professors feel it to be an honour to work. Moreover, the late Professor Wilson, who must be held to be at least the equal in reputation and status of any of the present professors, worked in Belfast under the very statute upon which the council's proposals were modelled, and of which they are a relaxation. Professors Wyville Tennison, James Thomson, Dr. Everett, Dr. Craik, Dr. McCosh, and other distinguished men have also worked under it, and if they did not feel dishonoured by it we may feel sure that the apprehensions of the professors under this very head are somewhat fanciful. We would also wish to point out that the appointment is an instantly pressing necessity. The present registrar has resigned. In order to make the new office effective for good, he must take up the registrar's work. That can be done now, but if the matter is postponed a new registrar will have to be appointed, and with the appointment of a new registrar the opportunity for making the working of the University effective will pass away for a generation."

In reply to questions, the deputation said that the professors and lecturers would not be at the mercy of the vice-chancellor, nor would the present positions of the latter be very much impaired, as his actions would have to be upheld by the council before they could have effect. The vice-chancellor would always be on the spot to receive complaints from the professors and lecturers, and also from the students, and could at once investigate them. If there was nothing in them, he would be able to inform the council accordingly, should the matter come before it, but should there be a real grievance, then it would be his duty to lay it before the council at the first opportunity. In that way it was hoped scandals would in future be avoided. The vice-chancellor, however, was not to interfere with a lecturer or professor as to his teaching, or the manner in which the lectures should be arranged, but should a professor neglect his students by not delivering lectures or by being late, then the vice-chancellor would inquire into the complaint, and report the matter to the council.

Dr. PEARSON.—Suppose a professor gave lectures out of an old text book?

Dr. Madden.—In that case the vice-chancellor would call the attention of the council to it, and the council, if it saw fit, would communicate with the professor.

Dr. PEARSON.—Do you think this reform is so important that the Government ought to ask Parliament to vote the £1,500 required for the salary of the vice-chancellor?

Dr. Madden.—We think so.

Dr. PEARSON promised to lay the statements which had been made to him by both deputations before the Cabinet and to see that justice was done to them.

Register 12th Sept^r 1890

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—The arithmetic paper set to candidates yesterday at this examination consisted of seven questions (one a double one), and the time given to work them was from 10 to 12 o'clock—only two hours. A friend of mine, who from his knowledge and training may be termed an expert at such work, informs me that he worked out the papers, and it took him an hour and a half to do; and even then he was uncertain of the correctness of his working, as he had not time to check the items. Now, if it takes a highly-educated mathematician an hour and a half to work this paper, is it reasonable to ask children of thirteen years of age to do it in two hours? I do not complain of the difficulty of the papers, although some of the questions are stiff enough in all conscience; but why not have given the candidates a reasonable time—I say three hours at least—in which to do the work?

I am, Sir, &c.,
A PARENT.

Register 13th Sept^r 1890

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I am prepared to agree with much that your correspondent "A Parent" advances in his letter upon the above subject. For young candidates, many of them undoubtedly unnerved by their surroundings, the ordeal was a severe one. Yet I think "A Parent" need not unnecessarily alarm himself. The examiners will certainly not require more than half marks to be gained, and will further, I am sure, fairly allot marks to those questions, though not absolutely correct, which have been attempted with an intelligent conception of the methods required. If such, however, be not the case the information I have gleaned from candidates themselves—both girls and boys alike—forces upon me the conviction that the results will be disastrous to many a hard-working competitor as well as disappointing to those who have laboured to prepare them.

I am, Sir, &c.,
ETELESTHE.

Register 13th Sept-1890

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Regarding your correspondent's letter about the arithmetic paper set I agree in the main with his statements. I have had considerable practice in teaching this subject, and find that many pupils who at thirteen or fourteen years are very weak in this branch develop the reasoning faculty to a great extent at a later stage if their general studies are continued along with arithmetic and they are not forced or discouraged into a dislike of it. I would therefore suggest that as the Preliminary Examination debars all who cannot pass it from any subsequent University examination that a pass and honour paper be set, and three hours allowed, as in the mathematics, for the Senior and Junior Examination. This would give all who have a real desire to study encouragement to proceed to other examinations, and those who are specially talented (at an early age) in arithmetic would receive the credit of it. I consider it a pity to neglect simpler studies for it under the age of fifteen.

I am, Sir, &c.,

ANOTHER PARENT.

Register 15th Sept-1890

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—"Parent" does not consider that the University Board connected with the late preliminary examination may have had aims other than testing mere accuracy in the arithmetic paper. Expedition is an accompanying qualification, and with the twofold demand of accuracy and expedition there must necessarily be a restriction of time, though probably the percentage required to pass will be correspondingly reduced. This last arithmetic paper requires close attention and uninterrupted working, and I suppose it would be quite the exception for the average candidate to work the lot and copy them on his papers in presentable form in the allotted space of two hours, but the adjustment would come in if the original pass percentage bore the proportionate ratio to the increased difficulty.

I am, Sir, &c.,

EVEN REFORM.

Register 15th September 1890

THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Since the advent of certain Professors to the University Council there is a distinct tendency in that body towards over legislation as regards the undergraduates. Having much leisure seemingly at their disposal they are afflicted with a *cacoethes leges faciendi*. Their motto might be, "In a fatherly kind of way we govern each class and course." The first regulation I take exception to is that recently passed whereby a student before he can enter for the final examination at the end of the year must also pass one of the terminal examinations during the year. This means that whereas the passing of one examination a year was previously sufficient for a certificate, now two distinct examinations must be first negotiated. This is an unjustifiable doubling of academical burdens. When a student enters on a course which involves three years' or more hard study he has a right to expect that the governing body of the University will keep good faith with him. They do nothing of the sort, but when he is finally committed to the study of some profession they spring a surprise on him by informing him that the conditions of his course are altered and that he must conform to them. And I repeat that the doubling of a yearly burden is a very material alteration in the terms of any agreement. This regulation in fact should only have operation over those students who join after this year, and who accordingly go in with their eyes open. Again, the Professors have now the power to refuse to mark a student as present if they consider his work is insufficiently prepared. This is absurd, and is opposed to the theory of University education, by which a man is allowed, after the hard and fast lines of school work, to let his reading take a wider range and not be bound down to a daily task. If a student attends at a lecture he is entitled to be marked present. That he is a fit person to be there is evidenced by his matriculation, and the Professor should not enquire further as to the precise state of his progress. Of that the final examination is the test. Cannot Professors understand that they are not schoolmasters; that to hear a lesson is not to give a lecture? The University is being brought down to the level of a public school. Allow me to suggest that the worthy but irascible Registrar be empowered to inflict corporal punishment on misbehaving undergrads. I think—I say I think—he has time therefor. The Professor of Laws might be appointed assistant tormentor, so that he should not be out of the fun. But how could they deal with the lady students? Before I answer that "Come over here where the Chancellor can't hear us." Well, the ladies might be left to the Chancellor, which might be very exasperating for a highly susceptible Chancellor.

I am, Sir, &c.,

W. L. ROBERTSON.

Ward-street, N.A., September 12.