

ascertaining the true range of a candidate's scholarship.

Under the third heading little need be said. The knowledge of the liberal arts just as much tends to power as that of the physical sciences. It cannot be gauged by the amount of information gained, but more by its effects on the enlargement of the mind, making it better able to grasp the social, political, and religious problems which are constantly presenting themselves for solution. The result of this in the guidance and formation of public opinion needs no enforcement.

And as to the remedies. In the first place, the University should abolish—at any rate for the junior and senior public examinations—all textbooks and all set books for translation, and substitute a declaration that the examination will be limited to a general knowledge of the subject such as would be expected from a candidate for entrance to the University. It should also assimilate our LL.B. degree to that of the sister Universities, by making the taking of the B.A. course a subsidiary thereto, and thus prevent our graduates in law being mere specialists and otherwise quite untrained in liberal education. It should make the elements of logic and political economy subjects of the public examinations, and thus lead up to a preliminary study of them in the colleges and schools, which would tend to engender a desire for some knowledge on the point among the scholars when they attain years of discretion. By thus leaving the hands of the teachers to a greater extent free, real education would be established and the system of cram in our public schools would be discouraged. The University would then not deserve to be contemptuously dubbed a "pill and brief shop." By the executive of the religious bodies insisting on their candidates for the ministry receiving such a liberal education, public taste would be cultivated, and the Arts School of the University, instead of being in a semi-moribund condition, would be healthily stimulated.

*Register June 16 1890.*

#### THE SENIOR PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Kindly allow me space to call attention to a matter seriously affecting the candidates for the November examination. Among the textbooks prescribed for this examination are "Green's History of England," Reign of George III., and "Payne's Colonies." Neither of these books can be obtained at the booksellers, nor can the booksellers obtain them from England; and I understand that "Payne's Colonies" is not in print. I am informed that the attention of the University authorities has been called to the above, yet nothing has been done, although it is now only five months to the examination. Will candidates fail in the examination if they are unable to answer questions set on the contents of the above books?

I am, Sir, &c.,

STUDENT.

Adelaide, June 13.

[The University authorities inform us that the booksellers who supply the University books were shown the calendar last year, so that they might have plenty of time to obtain the textbooks, but they say that there has been some difficulty in procuring the works from the publishers. It does seem unfair to students that they cannot obtain the textbooks prescribed, but we are informed that most of the information contained in these books could be seen in other standard works. It really would not be difficult for students to get a Green's History, for such a standard work is in almost every library.—ED.]

Register June 13<sup>th</sup> 1890.

THE SENIOR PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I venture to think that in spite of your footnote students have a real ground of complaint about the books set for English in the above examination. A private student may perhaps be able to procure "Green's History" from a library, or borrow it from a friend; but even for him it is hardly satisfactory not to have his own copy of a text-book, which he may use how and when he likes. In the case, however, of a large class in a school it is absolutely necessary that each student should possess a copy of the work. The case with regard to Green's History is this. The complete work is now no longer issued as a whole, but is being republished in four parts at 3s. each. The portion set for this examination is contained in the fourth volume, which was only announced by the publishers to appear in January, 1890, and could not reach the colony until March, some four or five months after the subject was announced; and the publication has apparently been delayed, as the work is not even now to be had from the booksellers; though I was informed by a bookseller the other day that he could provide six copies of the larger work at 8s. 6d. each. Another point that the University authorities would do well to consider is the cost to the student of the books which are set; in English alone his books will cost him 17s., and of two of them only very small portions are to be read; the "Payne's Colonies" is a 4s. 6d. work, of over 400 pages, and out of this he is required to get up less than seventy, or under one-fifth; and the same is the case with the "Green's History;" he is only required to read a fractional part of an expensive work, which will cost him 8s. 6d.—if he is lucky enough to procure a copy.

I am, Sir, &c..

P. E. RAYNOR.

S.P.S.C., June 16.

Quiz June 20<sup>th</sup> 1890.

OUR UNIVERSITY.

No matter what grievance may exist, there will be found apologists, who will turn and twist the truth in such a manner that in its distorted form it will deceive the very people who were perhaps the first to complain. There are in Adelaide persons who believe that nothing which is done at the University can be wrong just as implicitly as they acknowledge the same doctrine as applied to a king. This class is made up of the members of the University Council—a sufficiently exclusive set—and others, who, because they have had what they would term a superior education, consider themselves suitable to occupy a similarly responsible position.

A week or two ago QUIZ drew attention, in a way that seemed to him the most likely to drive the truth home to the authorities, to some very serious bungling in connection with the Senior Public examinations. He has reason to know that his remarks somewhat disconcerted those to whom they referred, and the fact that they have provoked an animated discussion in the columns of that most staid of journals, the REGISTER, is a proof that QUIZ possesses the faculty for scenting out abuses, and that his strictures carry with them that weight which should always be attached to the utterances of the impartial critic. It is simply astounding that two books which are to play an important part in the Senior Examinations should be almost unprocurable, although six months out of the twelve which are available for study have passed away.