

by the Melbourne University, and that this recognition must include all degrees. Melbourne cannot say that she will recognise the Adelaide arts degree, but that the laws degree is not good enough. If the Adelaide University is admitted to be a sister University, the holders of all of her degrees must be welcomed. We congratulate Mr. Jones, who is a Victorian and who graduated in law here last December, on the success of his application. It is not so easy to congratulate the Adelaide University, whose degrees in law do not command approval, and that for obvious reasons. The possible result — unless, indeed, care is taken to remove the existing ground of complaint—is that the Melbourne University will decline to recognise any of the degrees conferred by Adelaide, whether these are in arts, laws, medicine, music, or science. As it is, the decision of the Judges in Victoria facilitates the admission of gentlemen to the Bar of that colony through a side door.

Advertiser Sept^r 4th 1889.

THE ADVANCED SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—At the conclusion of a leader in your issue of the 27th August, in which you refer in gratifying terms to my lecture on education, you remark "We cannot see why he should have singled out the Advanced School for Girls for special attack." I did so because, firstly, it is a State school, and public criticism of its system is not obnoxious to the charge of bad taste, which I might have incurred had I criticised any private school; and, secondly, because the vices in the education of girls which competitive examinations develop, are most conspicuous in that institution. I object to any interference of the State with higher education, and, were primary education of the masses possible without such interference, I would gladly see primary education also freed from the bureaucratic taint and cramping restraints which inevitably characterise all Government departments. Whatever necessity may have originally existed for the establishment of this school, I can testify from my experience as a University examiner that such necessity no longer exists. There are in Adelaide or its suburbs many private schools for girls, where the general education is not inferior to that of the Advanced School, although, from giving attention to specially genuine requirements, they may not make such an imposing show in the honor list of the University. At the same time I wish to repeat my statement, that all secondary schools in this colony of which I have any knowledge, Habndorf College excepted, keep too exclusively in view the "cramming" of text-books for the junior and senior examinations. This remark, however, I feel bound to qualify by stating that my knowledge of our private schools is somewhat limited, and that there are possibly many against which such a charge could not fairly be maintained. As regards the special defects of the Advanced School, the neglect of adequate physical training is denied by none. The neglect of those accomplishments which in the necessary division of human labor one naturally expects from the gentler sex has been defended on the grounds that such accomplishments have been already attained in the primary State schools or can be attained elsewhere. If the Advanced School is meant exclusively for girls who have passed class v. in a primary school needlework needs no further attention; but skill in instrumental music, in painting, in cookery—all excellent things in woman—cannot be attained elsewhere by a girl who is kept at school from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and has to devote at least a couple of hours to preparation of lessons, to say nothing of the time spent in going to and returning from school. The distinctions of sex cannot as a rule be disregarded in education without undesirable results. Some girls, it is true, may give promise of becoming women like Madame Dacier, Mrs. Somerville, or George Eliot, but they are exceptional, and moreover our University is open to such. The average girl should be educated with a view to her future duties as a woman, and whether she become a wife or remain a spinster the proper performance of those duties is dependent on training, which the Advanced School neglects, and which the private schools, so far as I can ascertain, do not, at least so completely, neglect. A learned woman may be admirable, but still more admirable is one

Not learned, save in gracious household ways;
 Not perfect, nay, but full of tender wants;
 No angel, but a dearer thing all dight
 In angel instincts, breathing Paradise;
 Interpreter between the gods and men,
 Who looks all native to her place, and yet
 On tiptoe seems to touch upon a sphere
 Too gross to tread, and all male minds perforce
 Sway to her from their orbits as they move,
 And girdle her with music.

—I am, &c.,

E. VAUGHAN BOULGER.

Advertisement 5 September 1889.

THE ADVANCED SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Professor Boulger seems anxious to give to the Advanced School for Girls its *coup de grace*, so he returns to the attack in your issue of this morning. Now, though I acknowledge that he has as much right as any other colonist to criticise the educational policy of the Government in this as in any other particular, I submit he should fight fair and be sure of his facts. He has discounted the value of most of his conclusions by saying that they were based upon limited knowledge; but on this point he is confident—the Advanced School is not wanted; his experience as a University examiner convinces him of that. Some of us have come to the opposite opinion, have deliberately chosen to send our daughters to it, and believe that it would be a distinct public loss to close it. But this charge *de haut en bas* is somewhat staggering. There is no higher authority to refer to. All we can do is appeal from "Philip drunk to Philip sober," from the professor in public to the professor in the quiet of his study. That appeal is reassuring. We find that last Christmas Professor Boulger had to examine a number of girls in English. Not knowing whence they came he commended 15 of them as excellent or first class; 12 out of that 15 were from the one unnecessary school, three from all others. Now, of course, the professor knew how to examine, and a "crammed" candidate is sure to be found out by a good examiner; so those 12 must have had an intelligent acquaintance with their studies. Perhaps after all we were right in being grateful to the ladies who teach at the Advanced School for their enthusiasm and devotion to their work. Perhaps we are as right in being sorry that they should be subject to ill-founded charges and slap-dash criticism.—I am, &c.,

A PARENT.

Register September 19th 1889.

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—While generally agreeing with the remarks in the letter of "Shorthand" in this day's *Register*, I would particularly wish to emphasize the careless way in which the examination in dictation was conducted during the recent Preliminary Examination. If rumour does not err, those of the second division examined were allowed to tide themselves over the somewhat crotchety piece by enquiring the words that had presented difficulties to the first set, and were thus undoubtedly placed in a more favourable position to obtain a pass. To prevent any feeling of mistrust or dissatisfaction after the results are published the examiners should bear this in mind. I am, however, fully convinced that Professors Boulger and Rennie will tide over this unfortunate circumstance in a fair and generous spirit.

I am, Sir, &c., INTEGRER.

OUR UNIVERSITY AND THE LL.B. DEGREE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—The case of Mr. Jones, LL.B., which was noticed in your leader, has brought prominently before the public the anomalous position which our graduates in law hold in reference to the sister University of Melbourne, and which has long been patent to the minds of those whom this state of affairs immediately affects here. It is time something was done to remedy this defect, and that speedily. As the law stands at present a person holding the degrees of B.A. and LL.B. from the Adelaide University can be admitted *ad eundem* to both these degrees in the University of Melbourne, but one with an LL.B. only cannot. The obvious course open is for the three colonial Universities to assimilate the degrees, make them equal in value, and mutually recognise them, and the best way for accomplishing this object would be by a conference of delegates from each University, who could agree on the curriculum for each degree, and then submit their decisions to their Councils and Senates for ratification. Your remarks as to the value of a previous course of training in arts before entering on the work for the LL.B. degree are well worthy of the earnest consideration of every aspirant for legal honours, and in my humble opinion our University would do well to make it a necessary prelude to the LL.B. degree, as is done in Melbourne. Mr. Jones deserves well of his *Alma Mater* for having disclosed and brought before the public one of her defects, which may now possibly be remedied, unless redtapeism and prejudice, which are unfortunately too powerful in the government of the University, bar the way. There will be one difficulty to be met if this course is adopted, and that will be the difference between the old and the new LL.B. degrees; but as there are only comparatively few of these at present this could be overcome, though the longer the reform is delayed the more difficult will it become. It must be the wish of all that something should be done in this matter, for in the case of the other degrees it is our proud boast that the courses of study are as difficult and long, if not more so, than the corresponding curricula in Melbourne and Sydney.

I am, Sir, &c.,
ADELAIDE GRADUATE

Register
20/9/89.