

Register Sep. 10. 1891

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—So many have spoken and written about the unsatisfactory way in which the dictation was given out at the late preliminary examination that there must be good grounds for the deep feeling of dissatisfaction which at present exists. From enquiries which I have made it appears remonstrance is unavailing, therefore, the only resort left is an appeal to public opinion in the hope that its strength will force the University authorities to take such steps as will ensure fair play to the candidates in future. It is stated on what appears to be good evidence that about one half of the candidates were unable to hear the words, although they were read over three times; also that after the reader had been informed of the fact by a gentleman who was present, he shouted the words out, which simply tended to make them more indistinct. One candidate wrote "involved" for "in vogue" and "false airs were born" for "false hair was worn." Questioned how this could make sense he said there was no sense in it, that he could not hear the words clearly enough to follow their meaning, and that he only found out his mistakes by comparing notes, after the examination, with other candidates who were placed nearer to the reader than he was. If mistakes of this kind, arising as they evidently do from the improper method of giving out the work, are counted against the candidates it will be simply iniquitous, and I trust the Professors of the University will see that this is not allowed to happen. Also that they will in future cause the dictation to be read clearly and distinctly, so that all the candidates may hear the words.

I am, Sir, &c.,

SUR ESPERANCE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Your correspondents "E.J." and "A Teacher" are quite correct respecting indistinct pronunciation in the dictation, as I know for a fact that boys of different families on returning home after the examination complained to their parents of being unable to hear many of the words. The fault can be verified I am sure by every boy present, therefore the examiner should make allowances regarding the dictation, or justice will not be done.

I am, Sir, &c.,

D. A. D.

Adelaide, September 14.

Advertiser Sep. 11. 1891

"CANDIDATE" writes:—"In a weak moment I entered for the University preliminary examination, of course expecting to get a fair chance of hearing the dictation, but my hopes were dashed to the ground on Wednesday morning, for it was with the greatest difficulty that I could follow the examiner, and from the complaints of the boys generally directly after we left the concert-hall of the Exhibition Building others suffered even more than I did."

Advertiser Sep. 12. 1891

University Dictation.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—One of my daughters presented herself for the preliminary examination at the University, and makes the same complaint as your correspondent "Candidate." She and those near her at the far end of the room did not hear the dictation. When the young gentleman who dictated began he was not loud enough, and when he good-naturedly endeavored to make every one hear he shouted and mispronounced his words, rousing the echoes and making matters worse. It is a serious thing sometimes for a candidate to fail, and on this occasion I really think that in justice another opportunity should be given to those who failed in dictation only.—I am, &c.,

A FATHER.

Sir—A large majority of the candidates complain that they could not hear the dictation. For myself and schoolmates, I can say that several of us feel sure that we have passed in arithmetic and English, and equally sure that we have failed in spelling, not because we could not spell, but because the examiner could not dictate properly. It is very hard that after our year's work we should have the mortification of a failure through no fault of our own, but through the negligence of one in authority. In the arithmetic paper the last sum has puzzled several teachers to my own knowledge, and it seems queer that in an elementary paper for boys there should be a sum which can puzzle the teachers.—I am, &c.,

CANDIDATE.

Sir—I hear a number of boys will fail in the preliminary examination of the University held on Thursday in dictation, because they were unable to hear what was read to them, and when they raised their hands no notice was taken. The room is large and the acoustic properties very bad. I trust the examiners will think of this.—I am, &c.,

PARENT.

Register Sep. 14. 1891

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I must enter a strong protest against the way in which the dictation was given out on Wednesday last to the candidates whose misfortune it was to undergo the ordeal in the Concert Hall of the Exhibition Building, the acoustic properties of which seem to utterly unfit it for such an object. I do not wish to reflect on the dictator (Professor Bragg, I believe), for I know he is most fair, and certainly anxious at all times to give every reasonable assistance to candidates; nor do I wish to complain of the piece chosen. Notwithstanding this, the candidates—the majority of whom were undergoing their first public examination—were placed at the greatest possible disadvantage, being able to hear only indistinctly especially at the back of the room, and thus the piece became absolutely difficult. Let me give one or two examples, viz.:—"Sensual pleasure" was very generally taken as "essential pleasure;" "in vogue" became "embogue," "in bow," &c.; "false hair was worn," led to the mistake "horse hair was worn," also, "a false hair was born." I could easily multiply examples, but these are surely sufficient to show that candidates were in a delightful state of uncertainty as to what they were required to write. I trust the examiners will bear this in mind, and treat the errors in the dictation leniently, otherwise deserving candidates will feel the miseries of the "plucked" through circumstances over which they had no control.

I am, Sir, &c.,

TEACHER.

Register 21. Sep. 1891

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS.

The following are the results of the preliminary examinations held in connection with the University in September, 1891, as far as the papers have been examined. The complete list of successful candidates will be known today. The names are arranged under schools, irrespective of merit:—

St. Peter's College.—John Bell Anthony, William Stocks Brain, Harrold John Bullock, Alexander Charles Clark, George Henry Crutenden, Herbert Gustav Carl Degenhardt, Harvey Langford Ebbs, Joseph Charles Edmunds, Rodney Fowler.

Prince Alfred College.—Walter John Colebatch, Horace Stanhope Cowan, Alexander Scott Crooks, Bertram John Davey, Herbert Mitchell Dingle, Robert Owen Fox, Wycliffe Faulkner Gardiner, Greton Elliott Giles.

Advance School.—Iris Bartels, Marion Horsley Chapman, Phoebe Chapple, Alice May Collison, Alice Wilhelmina Crosby, Laura Edith Dickenson, Alexandrina Douglas, Caroline Edwards, Mary Edith Forwood, Edith Agnes Fraser.

Christian Brothers' College.—Leo Laurence Anderson, James Thomas Blunsden, Percival John Brett, Philip Sylvester Clarke, Louis George Edmunds, Robert Hugo Edmunds.

Unley Park School.—Charlotte Margaret Nancy Wilson Warrington Allan, Louise Appelt, Evaline Burford, May Burgess.

Semaphore Collegiate School.—Jocelyn Edward Barrett, Charles Alexander Brown, Walter Henry Brown.

Adelaide Collegiate School.—Frank Claxton Addison, Harry Bentham Field.

Norwood Public School.—Charles Angel, John Colville.

Ladies' Collegiate School, Semaphore.—Beatrice Gerard Bayly, Maude Holdick Bayly, Ada Olive Freer.

Miss Martin's School.—Katherine Louise Birks, Mildred Constance Burden.

Adelaide Girls' Collegiate School.—Mabel Louise Bowen, Rose Lilian Fayers.

Hardwicke College.—Ellen Daisy Churchward, Ada Flint.

Miss Brown's School.—Mabel Eva Doswell, Florence Edith Farrow.

Whinham College.—Charles Hamilton Catchlove.

Glenelg Grammar School.—Alexander Gollan Addison.

Miss Aldersey's School.—Ellen Anderson.

Kapunda School for Girls.—Emma Maude Benham.

Miss Hubbe's School.—Edith Annie Bolitho.

Clare Advance School.—John Corbin.

Hahndorf College.—Frederick Horton Clough.

Miss Ives's School.—Annette Augusta Dollman.

Collegiate School for Girls, Norwood.—Frances Amelia Fry.

Private Tuition.—Albert Edmund Fryar.