

Advertiser March 6th 1891

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Some time since letters were inserted in your paper criticising the mode of examination adopted in our public educational institutions, which created a good deal of interest, and there would no doubt have been much more correspondence on the subject but for the fact that interested people do not care to say all they think, as the ruling powers and uninterested parties are ever ready to ascribe selfish motives at once. I consider it is only interested people who know or care anything about the matter, and consequently the ones from whom such discussions should arise. I have hoped for years that the headmasters of private institutions would endeavor to introduce improvements with the following results, viz:—1. That every candidate should be informed in what subject or subjects he or she failed, and by how many marks in each subject as soon as possible after correction. 2. That every candidate should have the right by payment of a small fee to see his or her own and any other candidate's papers after correction, and the right to claim his or her own papers after a certain date. 3. That the standard should be proportionate in every subject. And last but not least, some system should be introduced by which it would be almost impossible for any candidate or friend of such to indirectly obtain exam papers or the contents of such. The reader will understand, I hope, that I only refer to public educational institutions in every case, as I consider it is the people who support them; and to ensure the confidence of their supporters the examinations should be thoroughly impartial. I do not say they are not so, but I do say that while the candidate's name or set number is affixed to each and every paper there is an opportunity offered to examiners, all of whom are only mortal, I am sure any candidate who is justly plucked (and my second proposal would soon prove that) would be satisfied, and such inspection would confer greater honors on the already successful. There is still another reason why candidates should be entitled to receive their papers after correction from the University; that is, they pay a fee for such exam. for the satisfaction of learning the extent of his or her educational defects; but, alas! in many cases he or she is crushed by the mighty pen of the elect without knowing wherein they have erred.—I am, &c.,

ECHO ANSWERS WHY

Register Dec^r 9th 1890.

EDUCATIONAL.

THE ELDER SCHOLARSHIP OF MUSIC.—After an examination extending over two days this valuable scholarship has been won by Miss A. K. Porter, of William-street, Norwood, a young lady who, though only fifteen years of age, gives promise of developing into a pianiste of much ability. Miss A. K. Porter was taught by Miss Franziska Püttmann. At the final examination Professor Ives was assisted in the selection by Mr. T. N. Stephens and the representatives of Sir Thomas Elder (Messrs. A. Von Treuer and Martin). Miss Porter is the third successful holder, Mr. Otto Fischer, who recently visited the colony, being the first, and Miss Hack, whom Miss Porter succeeds at Easter next, the second. Mr. Fischer and Miss Hack were successful as singers, while Miss Porter is the first pianiste who has obtained the distinction. It will be remembered among the competitors for the first scholarship Miss Püttmann occupied a very high position, and it must be very gratifying to that accomplished teacher to know that her knowledge has proved so useful to the present holder. Miss Porter is to be congratulated upon being the successful one out of the fifteen candidates. Eight made singing their chief study, five violin playing, and two pianoforte playing. The scholarship is tenable for three years, and entitles the winner to receive musical education and board during that period at the Royal College of Music, London, free of cost. Miss Porter is a daughter of Mr. T. D. Porter, of the Surveyor-General's Office. The young lady has just completed her fifteenth year, and her success has afforded much gratification to her friends and relatives.

Register 9/12/90.

OBITUARY.

THE LATE MR. R. G. MOORE.—Referring to the death of Mr. R. G. Moore, a correspondent writes:—"Mr. Moore was one of those unassuming, studious, self-contained characters of whose attainments the outside world knows comparatively little, but of whose true mental worth his immediate circle of friends have a better knowledge. He was regarded as an excellent cabinet lawyer, and one whose opinions were never given without the most careful consideration and study of the subject. He was educated at St. Peter's College, Adelaide, and during his term was regarded as one of the most promising scholars, his capacity for acquiring knowledge being considerable, and his grasp of difficult questions very marked. After leaving St. Peter's he was sent to Cambridge University, where he took high honours, but owing to his independent character, which prompted him to refuse to pay the necessary fees to entitle him to the degrees, he did not carry his honours. His explanation to his friends was that he did 'not go home to take degrees, but to work for knowledge, and he did not care for the barren honour of letters.' He was an accomplished scholar, and loved learning for its own sake. His knowledge extended over a great range, 'from the Greek classics to conchology,' as an intimate friend of his puts it. He was undoubtedly one of the best read men in South Australia, but he never sought to parade his familiarity with so many different subjects, although he was never unwilling to give the benefit of his intellectual labours to those who sought information. He devoted himself to the study of the law as a profession, and passed at the Inner Temple. Entering the office of Boucaut, Bruce, & Stuart, on the retirement of Mr. Boucaut on his elevation to the Bench Mr. Moore became a partner in the firm of Bruce, Stuart, & Moore—afterwards Bruce & Moore. The deceased gentleman was

an enthusiastic collector of rare books, and his library is said to contain 6,000 volumes, including a splendid collection of the old dramatists' works, and perhaps the best library of Shakspearian works in Australia. He officiated for some time as Law Examiner at the Adelaide University. In 1887 Mr. Moore came out for the District of Newcastle against the Hon. T. Playford and Messrs. T. Burgoyne, M.P., P. B. Coglein, and White, but was defeated. One of his brothers was a legal practitioner in the country, but died a short time since, and another is a doctor of medicine. A third brother is in the Civil Service; while a sister is married to Dr. Gardner. The late Mr. Moore was a nephew of the late Mr. F. H. Dutton, and was a legatee under Mr. Dutton's will. The funeral took place quietly at the North-road Cemetery at 5 o'clock on Friday afternoon.

Register 10/12/90.

THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I do not propose to go through all the points raised in Mr. D'Arenberg's letter, which appeared in your issue of yesterday, as they can be better discussed at the meeting of the Senate to-morrow. I wish, however, to observe that the existing LL.B. degree is recognised by the Universities of Sydney and New Zealand; but that even the addition of two years of the Arts course would not secure its recognition at Melbourne. If, as we are constantly being told, the mathematics required for the senior public examination are too hard, it appears to me that there is the less necessity for requiring law students, who have passed that examination, to do any more mathematics. It has been pointed out that there are sometimes candidates for the LL.B. degree who do not intend to practise as barristers in this colony; and that for them the law of procedure (which hardly comes within a University course) is not a very suitable subject. Allowing such candidates to take up mental and moral science instead is surely an improvement. I do not regard the work of the last year, or of any year since the Law School was established, as satisfactory. So long as the law students continue to give up their whole working days to the offices where they are articled, making their University work a by-play, and there is no means of compelling anything more than mere physical presence at lectures, I believe that the proportion of failures will continue to be as large as it has hitherto been; nor can I see how adding additional subjects for examination will help matters. There is no such difficulty to contend against in the medical school, where the students devote all their attention to their studies at the University.

I am, Sir, &c.,

F. W. PENNEFATHER.

University.