The Register

Thursday, December 29, 1905

The University and the Schools.

Criticism of the University examinations for school boys has appeared from the mouths of the masters of St. Peter's College and of Priory College, the principal of the Christian Brothers' College, and also from other autonimous educational institutions. They would all probably be found supporting Brother Magee when he says:—

"I find induced to offer a prayer to the Great Trinity there is allowed to the sons of Priory the privilege of a school boy seeing another's exam in these examinations. The results are not a matter of one's own private knowledge, but that the school that chooses best for its pupils, as they will have the advantage of these."

Even more specific in his references than the principal of the Christian Brothers' College, the head master of St. Peter's College, complained of a prevailing unsatisfactory degree of University examinations for school purposes. Mr. G. H. Macdonald expresses himself thus, in an explanation from the University authorities:—

"It is the practice to carry on every year that some of these University examinations are more satisfactory than others, and that there are always some schools that do not do well. But the difficulty of the normal boy who is either restricted in two or three subjects, and is thus forced to make a choice of the subject in which he is most competent, is a matter of common experience over the whole of Australia. It is impossible, even, to express a hope that they will never be improved."

The principal of the University College, North Adelaide, discussing the evil of examinations, says:—

"The evil of examinations is that there is no time for the students to study, and the students are not encouraged to study. They are simply forced to study."

The Register.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor:—

Sir,—I was glad to see that Lennox Truth is going to open a music school, and that he has already commenced with the so-called "music examinations" held at the University of Adelaide. To the announcement of these examinations, I have no objection, but I am afraid that the public will not be satisfied with the results. In my opinion, the system of examinations is likely to be attended with many disadvantages, and I am afraid that the results will not be satisfactory. I hope that the Government will take some steps to prevent the evils of this system from occurring. Otherwise, I am afraid that the public will be disappointed. I remain,

Yours truly,

Ad. Dec. 29

The Register.