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THE EDUCATION REGULATIONS.

The Education Department, with the limited means at its disposal, is endeavouring, not too successfully, to respond to the invitation of the University authorities to co-operate in giving the teachers of South Australia better opportunities for self-improvement than they have hitherto enjoyed. The new regulations, which have been long promised and at last issued, have been rendered necessary by the recent innovation in training school methods; and occasion has been taken to alter a number of details relating to other portions of the work of the department. The persons primarily concerned in the first instance are the pupil teachers and those who intend to enter the ranks of the teaching profession. "The Register" has pointed out on several occasions how urgent is the necessity for maintaining the supply of men teachers in Australia; and the gradual decrease in the proportion of male to female assistants must cause anxiety to those responsible for the welfare of the schools. The Education Department has not, like the University, had the good fortune to receive an Eldebequest; and it has been compelled to adjust its finances on the principle of deducting from one line of expense the costs of improvements effected under other headings. Beginning with the lowest rung in the ladder of the public school service, we find that a considerable addition will take place in the number of monitors, who are paid at the rate of 4s. a week for boys and 3s. 3d. for girls. Formerly pupil teachers were assigned to all schools, excepting those with very few pupils; but the new regulations provide that a school having as many as 75 children in attendance may be worked by the teacher, assisted by two monitors paid the low salaries mentioned. This partially explains why the latest system will cause a great reduction in the number of the pupil teachers, for monitors will take the positions of those who are displaced or not appointed.

On the other hand, young people who have been accepted as pupil teachers will enjoy a better chance of fitting themselves for their future profession than they have hitherto had. They will undergo six years' training, of which the first two will be spent in the Pupil Teachers' School, the second two in obtaining experience through actual teaching, and the third two in attending the University Training School. At first the salaries will be low—£15 per annum for boys and £12 for girls—but, as this payment will be given while they are devoting all their time to study, the treatment seems not ungenerous. For the first year of actual work the male pupil teachers will receive £30 and the girls £24. Then, while attending University lectures, the students will have maintenance money at the rate of £30 per annum—an amount in some cases increased to £50 or even £80 if the student is a married man. Inducements are offered to encourage those who have had three years' experience in teaching, and who can pass the senior public or some equivalent examination, to come under the University training regulations; and this is a satisfactory change. The State has raised up formidable opposition to the private school teachers, and it should make every reasonable effort to assist those who are competent in joining the ranks of the public school staff. Another act of justice is the regulation enabling provisional school teachers to become classified and to rise in the profession. The general effect of the financial alterations, so far as the pupil teachers and trainees are concerned, will be that the total amount received by the young instructor until attaining to a salary of £3 a week will be about the same as it is now. The progress will be a little slower; but valuable educational facilities will be offered as a countervailing advantage. Altogether it appears that the positions of the pupil teachers—most of whom reside in the city or suburbs or in the larger towns—will be materially improved in some respects, and that to this extent they will be placed in strong contrast to monitors in country schools having less than 75 scholars.

The higher elementary education which was so earnestly advocated by the present conscientious and zealous Minister when he was a private member of Parliament finds an important place in the new regulations. When Mr. Batchelor suggested the establishment of State high schools "The Re-

gister demonstrated that similar institutions in Queensland and elsewhere had failed to reach the class of children for whom they were intended, and an extension of the system of scholarships was strongly recommended in preference to the suggested alternative. Shortly afterwards the number of the exhibitions and bursaries offered to clever boys and girls respectively was doubled; and under the new regulations the total will be increased to 48, of which 36 will be tenable at the Pupil Teachers' School and Advanced School for Girls, and 12 at private colleges, adjustments being permitted to meet the preferences of holders so far as may be practicable. In the past children who have the advantage of attending schools large enough to possess fifth and sixth classes have carried off the lion's share of the prizes; while among country pupils the children—often members of his own family—to whom the teacher may choose to apportion a large amount of his spare time—naturally enjoy the

best chances of success. It is now stipulated that certain country schools shall be selected as specially fitted to have fifth and sixth classes, and that a number of clever children—10 boys and 10 girls—from neighbouring schools may receive a maintenance allowance of £15 per annum to enable them to attend these higher elementary institutions. This system is an adaptation of the plan of constituting specified public schools into "superior schools," as in New South Wales, where during about 20 years the number of such higher class establishments has been increased to 253. The success of the idea, so far as the majority of country pupils are concerned, will depend upon the lines on which the examinations are instituted—upon the encouragement or discouragement of cram. Natural brightness of intellect ought to be taken as the basis of selection. It would be pitiable to see little children under 12 (which is the age limit) being crammed so that they may secure scholarships at superior public schools.

Assistant inspectors as a class are for the first time recognised in the new regulations. Owing to pressure on the headquarters staff the plan of appointing a subordinate grade of school supervisors, and of drafting in a number of head teachers as occasional inspectors, has gradually arisen. The new departure was adversely criticised by "The Register" when the first assistant inspector was appointed, and the complaints which have been more recently urged by our correspondents regarding the effects of its further extension as now formulated in the regulations seem to have fully justified the attitude then adopted. In former times the practice was to have a full inspector stationed at some of the provincial centres of population, and the regulation providing for this arrangement is still retained, although the inspectors now work much more from headquarters than formerly, and the provincial residential clause applies principally to the assistant inspectors. Another matter of much public interest is the vexed question of Bible-reading. The Act of 1875 distinctly provides that no sectarian or denominational teaching shall be allowed in any school; but in the regulations of 1892 a clause was inserted permitting the department to lease any schoolhouse at a nominal rental to any minister of religion for religious instruction during convenient hours. This regulation was undoubtedly ultra vires and illegal, and the reversion to the stipulations of the Act is only in accordance with the law, as there is a distinct difference between religious instruction and Bible-reading without note or comment. Taken altogether, the new regulations are certainly in some respects a decided improvement on those previously in force; but it is open to question whether—particularly in the country districts—the meagre encouragement offered to boys to enlist in the ranks of South Australian educationists may not produce undesirable results. It would be more creditable to the province if some of the State money which has been squandered in other directions could have been utilized in providing better wages than three or four shillings a week to young people who are expected to enter the service in largely increased numbers as monitors.

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.
DIPLOMA IN MINING ENGINEERING AND METALLURGY.
PASS AND HONOURS LIST.
Mining Engineering.—Bertram Whittington, second-class honours; Julian Dove Connor, third-class honours; Isaac Herbert Boas, pass.
Metallurgy.—Isaac Herbert Boas, second-class honours; Bertram Whittington, pass.

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On Wednesday afternoon, at the conclusion of the term in connection with the senior class at the Conservatorium of Music, Mr. T. H. Jones, Mus. Bac., the Professor of Theory, was made the recipient of a silver matchbox suitably inscribed. Accompanying the souvenir was a letter signed by the young ladies of the class setting forth their appreciation of the trouble bestowed by Mr. Jones upon those with whom he had worked so well during the year while preparing them for examination. The address was artistically illuminated in sepia work by Miss E. Jurs, one of the students. Miss N. Jarvis, on behalf of the class, made the presentation, and Mr. Jones replied in a felicitous speech.

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A NOTE OF DISCORD.

We are informed that the council of the Adelaide University have under consideration a proposal to take over the whole of the buildings now known as the Elder Conservatorium of Music and devote them for the future to the requirements of the arts and science schools of the Adelaide University. If this idea is carried into effect it is promised that some teaching rooms will be built at the rear of the Elder Conservatorium for the School of Music, while the large hall will still be used for concerts. Considerable objection is taken to this suggestion by teachers and pupils. We are officially informed that this and other schemes will be discussed by the University authorities. At present no decision has been arrived at.

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EDUCATION REGULATIONS.

IMPORTANT ALTERATIONS.

Revised education regulations which have been in course of preparation for months past were endorsed by the Executive Council on Wednesday morning. There are 482 in all, and the new book which will be issued will be a consolidating measure, as all the old and fresh rules have been incorporated in the latest set. An immense number of alterations of details, which were rendered necessary by special features, have been made, and several important principles introduced. The notable addition relates to the pupil teachers' school in Adelaide, but this has been in existence since the beginning of the year, and is now in full operation. Students as soon as they manifest teaching ability, and have the desire to enter the department, are sent to the pupil teachers' school for two years. Next they have two years' teaching, and the third two years they spend at the University. Under this system not so many students will be trained as formerly, and the reduction is expected to be about one-half. In consequence of this pupil teachers will not be placed in schools where there are less than 100 scholars. Formerly a school of 50 children secured a pupil teacher. The salaries of the beginners will not be so high at the start as previously, but at the end they will receive exactly the same. The requirements for higher classification have been modified to bring them in line with the University training. With regard to secular instruction there is power under the new provisions to revise the secular instruction from year to year, and to issue a new code, the idea being to keep abreast of the times. The Minister announced recently that regulation 317, under which any minister of religion could by paying a nominal rent of 1s. per annum attend a school before or after the usual hours and have the use of the room for religious instruction, would be struck out, and it does not appear in the latest provisions. The matter is dealt with in the Education Act, which prohibits denominational education in school buildings, but permits Bible-reading under certain conditions. The fees for the Advanced School for Girls have been reduced from £3 5s. 6d. to £2 15s. per quarter. The number of exhibitions for boys and bursaries for girls has been doubled, and in both cases 6 of them, or a quarter of the total number, are open to boys or girls from any school whatever, or to those receiving private tuition, the only qualification being that the competitor has to be a bona-fide resident of