

Advertiser
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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

The results of the senior public examinations, which took place at the Adelaide University last month, are published in "The Advertiser" to-day, and it will be seen that many of the students have done exceedingly good work. In the first class are 10 names, and in the second class an equal number of candidates have found a place. One young lady is in the former list, while four members of the sweeter sex are included in the latter. A most phenomenal success has been won by Mr. Norman William Jolly, the wicket-keeper of the Prince Alfred College cricket team, which recently met the victorious St. Peter's College eleven. Brain and muscle are evidently in happy combination in his frame, for not only did he make the highest score for his side in the match between the two colleges, but he has passed through his examination in English, Latin, Greek, German, pure mathematics, applied mathematics, chemistry, and experimental physics, obtaining credit in every one of the eight subjects. This surely is a "record," and the college may well be proud of its successful pupil. The best student at the senior examination is entitled to the Hartley Scholarship, which will carry him on to the Bachelor of Arts degree without the payment of any class fee. This is the first year in which that particular distinction has been awarded, for the conditions of the scholarship were only recently settled and made known. It is expected that the results of the junior public examination will be posted to-day, and by their publication many scores of anxious hearts will be set at rest. Mr. Jolly, it may be mentioned, left for Melbourne on Tuesday with the Prince Alfred College cricket team.

In the foregoing lists an asterisk denotes that the candidate passed with credit in the subject represented by figure to which the asterisk is attached. The figures attached to the name of any candidate show in which subjects the candidate passed as follows:—1 English, 2 Latin, 3 Greek, 4 French, 5 German, 6 Italian, 7 pure mathematics, 8 applied mathematics, 9 chemistry, 10 experimental physics, 11 botany and physiology, 12 physical geography and the principles of geology, 13 preliminary arithmetic and dictation.

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THE CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

The arrangements in connection with the University Public Examinations in Music have excited deep dissatisfaction in the public mind—there is no mistaking that fact. The protest from leading teachers of music, which a few days ago was presented as a petition to the University Council, expresses feelings very widely entertained. The Council has referred the petition to the Board of Musical Studies—of which the Professor of Music is Chairman—and if that action is to be merely the judicial preliminary to a thorough enquiry into the whole subject, well and good; but much more silence concerning the charges will deepen the uneasy feeling which prevails. It is only fitting that those who have taken the principal part in organizing the arrangements at the Conservatorium should, if able to do so, publicly rebut the statements made by outsiders. The policy inaugurated by the Board of Musical Studies has been arranged on definite and specific grounds, and any ex parte explanation from it will not settle the dispute and allay public distrust. If the Council should imagine otherwise and act accordingly it will trifle with the best interests of the University and of musical education in South Australia. No professor should ever be allowed to compete with private teachers by preparing pupils for examinations in which he is an examiner. In the music examiners' report published in "The Register" a few days ago it was stated that "where the candidates were personally known to Professor Ives the allotment of marks was left to the other examiner entirely." In one sense this was only seemly and right, but it suggests several unpleasant possibilities, and in any case why should outside teachers' pupils have to undergo the scrutiny of two examiners while others have only one to discover their errors? The prohibition which we mentioned just now is

one plain intention of the statute of the University which prescribes that a Professor must not give private instruction or deliver lectures to persons other than students of the University. Certainly this condition is subject to the discretion of the Council, but this very fact should render that body specially careful to insist upon adherence to the spirit and the letter of the statute. By nominally transferring the Adelaide College of Music to the University, and by giving it the name of Conservatorium, the University authorities have not overcome the inconsistencies inherent in the mistake of allowing a professor to prepare pupils for public examinations in competition with other teachers. The University was never established to compete for educational work already satisfactorily performed in the province; its purpose was to supply a higher grade of instruction.

Touching another complaint which has been made it was well that the standard throughout the examinations was raised, and there is no reason why our colonial examinations should not be brought into line with the best tests in the old country; but the teachers ought to have had fair notice that a change in this direction was to be made. It should have been notified in the syllabus issued by the University in the early part of the year, but even an intimation of a few weeks would have been very valuable to those who had to prepare the pupils. Reverting to the general question, the presence in the examinations of a representative from the Associated Boards of two leading institutions in London does not simplify the situation, but rather complicates it still more. In Canada recently a scheme of examinations propounded by the Associated Boards for "in absentia" degrees and diplomas has caused much discussion, and the Director of the Toronto College of Music has emphati-

cally expressed the opinion that "it partakes more of a financial than a musical nature, and seems to desire to reap where those whom the officials represent have not sown." He also contends that the general feeling of resentment exhibited in Canada concerning the matter arises from a belief that the action of the Associated Boards "savours of contempt for Canadian musicians and their work." We do not know whether the scheme propounded for the Dominion deserves these strictures, but certainly, for some reasons, the plan of sending out from London to the Adelaide Conservatorium each year a different musical expert as a joint examiner has distinct drawbacks. Uniformity in standard is one of the first essentials for success in any scheme of public examination, and this can hardly be secured when the Board of Examiners is differently constituted every year. In any case teachers will never be satisfied if their pupils are examined by the principal of a competing institution; and they are quite reasonable, and would be if an archangel were examiner. Their objection in itself is no disparagement of Professor Ives, but it is a very fair objection to that gentleman having placed himself or been placed by the University authorities in a false position, and so long as he retains it so long will teachers lack confidence in the Conservatorium examinations. In the circumstances it is not surprising that a number of music teachers are directing the attention of their pupils to the examinations instituted by Trinity College, London; but what a pity that local institutions should be so discounted. Surely the people might fairly expect that the munificent bequest from the late Sir Thomas Elder would have been used by the Council and Senate of the University in establishing a Conservatorium of true University standing, and not that any of the deceased patriot's money would have been used applied to providing junior classes in competition with private teachers who had enough to do before to earn a livelihood.

What has been gained? Advanced students have no better opportunities of obtaining higher tuition in Adelaide than they had prior to the founding of the Conservatorium, nor is any evidence apparent that such an advantage is likely to be afforded in the early future. How much better musical culture would have been promoted if instead of organizing its Preparatory School of Music the University Council had offered inducements to some artist of European celebrity to settle in Adelaide for a year or two. By arranging short terms of engagement—and no highly gifted and famous artist would consent to be absent long from the great art centres of the old world—we could in a few years go the round of the principal exponents of solo instruments and the voice. The public performances and tuition of such musicians as we could secure would be of incalculable benefit. What, however, is the present position? Was not the Adelaide College of Music doing good work before the University with mistaken zeal laid the spade to its roots to have it transplanted into uncongenial soil? How has the cause of music in Adelaide been served by the severance of a zealous conductor from the orchestra which he so energetically organized and artistically managed? What chance have the advanced students to receive adequate tuition from Conservatorium masters in the various branches if these masters are compelled to take a larger number of pupils like some poor fourth-rate piano teacher, who has to give cheap lessons, and neglect personal practice and study, simply to earn daily bread and butter? There is only one logical way out of the difficulty into which the Conservatorium has fallen. The institution should be made what it was intended to be—a musical school of true University standing, having an entrance examination, receiving no pupils but those who have passed that test, and never entering into rivalry with private teachers. Nothing can be more dangerous now than to pursue a policy of drift in the musical department of the University. If the Council and Senate can show that the Conservatorium has not got into a muddle, as some people assert, it is their duty to do so; and if it has in any way become distracted nothing short of a thorough reorganization would possibly restore public confidence in the institution.

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UNIVERSITY SENIOR PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

The following are the results of the University senior public examination for November, 1898:—

PASS LIST.

First Class.—Albert Joseph Brooks, 1,2, 4,5,7,9* (St. Peter's College); Francis Henry Cowell, 1,2,3, 5*, 7, 10* (Prince Alfred College); Andrew Fairweather, 1,2, 4*,7,9*,10 (Way College); Herbert William Gartrell, 1*,2,3,4,7,9*,12 (St. Peter's College); Lionel Wykeham Hayward, 1*,2,4*, 5,7,9 (St. Peter's College); Oswald Hunter, 1*,2,4*,7,9*,10 (Way College); Frieda Louisa Jacob, 1*,4,5*,7,10,11 (Advanced School); Norman William Jolly, 1*,2*,3*,5*, 7*,8*,9*,10* (Prince Alfred College); David W. S. McArthur, 1,2,5,7*,9*,10* (Prince Alfred College); Spencer Robinson, 1*, 2, 4,5,7,9* (St. Peter's College).
Second Class.—Melville Birks, 1,2,4,7,9*, 10 (Way College); Royden George Bullock, 1,3,7,9* (St. Peter's College); Blanka Buring, 1,4,5*, 7 (Advanced School); Renfrey G. Burnard, 1,5,7*, 10 (Prince Alfred College); Francesca A. Lattle, 1*, 4,5,7,11,12 (Advanced School); Ada Ethel Mary Martin, 1,4*,5,11*,12* (Unley Park School); Wilfred F. Partridge, 1*, 2,4,7 (Way College); Vera Carleton Parker, 1*,4,5,11 (Advanced School); Clement Thomas Rose, 1,5,7*,9,10 (Prince Alfred College); Arthur Roy Taylor, 1,2,5,7*,9,10 (Prince Alfred College).
Third Class.—Edward Thomas Begley, 1,2,7,9 (Christian Brothers' College, West Australia); Claude Earnest Bennett, 1,2,4, 7,9 (Rev. D. A. Kerr); William Stuart Bright, 1,2,7,9 (private tuition); William Thomas Bryan, 1,2,4,7 (Christian Brothers' College, West Australia); John Edward F. Deakin, 1,2,7,9 (Christian Brothers' College, West Australia); Charles A. Edmunds, 1,4,7,9,10 (Christian Brothers' College, Adelaide); Muriel Edith Farr, 1,3,11,12 (Tormore School, North Adelaide); Vincent de Paul Gillen, 1,4,7,9 (Christian Brothers' College, Adelaide); Laurie Lindsay Jones, 1,5,7,9 (St. Peter's College); William John Lambert, 1,2,4,7 (High School, Perth); Francis Edward McAree, 1,2,4,7,9 (Christian Brothers' College, Adelaide); Victor Garfield Marian, 1,2,4,7 (Way College); George Elton Mayo, 1,4,7,9 (St. Peter's College); Austin James Moroney, 1,4,7,9,10 (Christian Brothers' College, Adelaide); John Pearson O'Connell, 1,2,4,7,9,10 (Christian Brothers' College, Adelaide); Cornelius O'N. Quigley, 1,2,7,9 (Christian Brothers' College, West Australia); Hilda Mary Ring, 1,4,11,12 (Norwood High School); Claude Maythorn Verco, 1,2,5,7,9, 10 (Prince Alfred College); Gertrude Mary Walton, 1,4,7,11,12 (private study, Perth); Annie Gertrude Young, 1,4,7,11,12 (Dryburgh House School).
Fourth Class.—Catherine Angus, 1,4,7 (Mr. A. W. Gosnell); Elliott A. Brammitt, 1,5,10 (Prince Alfred College); William F. J. Gibbons, 1,4,7 (Christian Brothers' College, Adelaide); Donald Angus Kennedy, 1,2,12 (Hahndorf College); Eleanor Opie, 1,4,7 (Advanced School); Alfred Francis Stokes, 1,3,9 (St. Peter's College).
The undermentioned candidates passed in the following special subjects:—Bertha Mary Baggot, 1,13 (Dominican Convent, Cabra); Mary Imelda Callary, 1,13 (Dominican Convent, Cabra); Edwin Lester Carr, 1 (self tuition); William Magaroy Hole, 5,10 (private study); Cyril Beaumont Moryat, 5 (private study); James McNeil Martin, 1,9,10 (Queen's School, North Adelaide); Bertha Beatrice O. Tucker, 11 (Unley Park School); Allan MacLaren Webb, 2 (Rev. D. A. Kerr); Beatram Whittington, 5 (private study); Hilda Eliza Williams, 1 (Hardwick College); Mary Sophia Young, 11 (Dryburgh House School).