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and scholarly study, then one realizes that perhaps after all our universities are not quite so secular as we are sometimes led to believe; and that there is a power that in its quiet, unobtrusive way in leavening our whole university life. This method of discussing great religious problems must produce valuable results. The apostolic injunction to "prove all things" has been adopted as the watchword of modern science, and reason is substituted for authority; as the basis of faith. Tennyson depicted the experience of the majority of highly cultured and thoughtful young men when he wrote of the student "in many a subtle question versed, who touched a jarring lyre at first." The chief aim of the Student Christian Union is to assist earnest but perplexed seekers after the truth to "beat their music out" by methods similar to those adopted by the poet's friend, who—

Fought his doubts and gathered strength—
He would not make his judgment blind,
But faced the spectres of the mind
And laid them; thus he came at length
To find a stronger faith his own.

From every point of view it is desirable that high ethical ideals and a spirit of reverence for sacred things should be associated with mental culture; and, although in some instances the faith which comes after intellectual "toll and storm" may not be of the conventional type, it is better that men should be unorthodox than indifferent to religious problems and influences. Matthew Arnold realized the dangers which beset those who act on the assumption that "the spirit of man has found new roads, and we must leave the old faiths and walk therein;" and he emphasized the importance of cultivating spiritual aspirations as well as mental attainments—

Bright rise and fast the stream of life may roll,
And no man may the other's hurt behold;
But each shall have one anguish—his own soul—
Which perishes of cold.

Children of men! Not that your age excel
In pride of life the ages of your sires;
But that ye think clear, feel deep, love fruit well,
The Friend of Man desire.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION COMMITTEE. ANNUAL REPORT, 1906.

The following report has been forwarded by the University extension committee to the Colonial Treasurer:—

Our work has shown a steady increase in every direction. During the year 1905 entries were received from 62 schools, and examinations were held in 10 centres. The total number of passes has risen steadily year by year, as follows:—1896, 18; 1897, 27; 1898, 47; 1899, 84; 1900, 143; 1901, 201; 1902, 218; 1903, 299; 1904, 306; 1905, 485. There was an increase above all previous years in each of the general public examinations, the number of passes being:—Primary, 162; junior, 80; senior, 26; higher public, 22. In the degree examinations, however, only three candidates came forward, each of whom succeeded in passing in one or more subjects. This small number of entries is probably due to the new regulations, which place Western Australian students at a great disadvantage. The principal objections to these are:—(a) Students can now obtain exemption from attendance at lectures in one subject only per year; (b) they are compelled to pay half lecture fees, though unable to attend.

We have been notified that at the end of 1906 the co-operation of the Associated Board with the University in conducting the music examinations will cease, so that in all probability we shall be relieved of this portion of the work after the next series of examinations.

Coming to details, we have both cause for congratulation and the reverse. In the junior examinations the Western Australian boys obtained first and second prizes, and, on the senior first and third. This was against the competition of the entire youth of South and Western Australia. Western Australian candidates obtained first place in the honours list in the following subjects:—Junior: Geography, Greek, Latin, French, arithmetic, algebra, geometry. Senior: History, Greek, Latin, French, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry. Higher public: History, Greek.

The accompanying schedule has been prepared, in order to obtain some idea of the state of education here compared with South Australia. It gives the percentages of entries and passes of Western Australian students in relation to the total for both States. A careful examination of the figures will reveal many interesting and useful facts, amongst which are the following:—Compared with South Australia the greatest number of relative entries occurs in primary; then, in succession, the higher public, junior, and senior. In the primary and junior our candidates were slightly more successful than those of South Australia, and the reverse in the senior and higher public; but, on the whole, the successes were very nearly equal.

Coming to details, by far the most striking feature, and one which cannot be too strongly emphasised, is the apparent neglect of scientific subjects in our schools. Thus, in the junior examination, our candidates secured only three out of 41 passes in physics, four out of 99 in chemistry, five out of 45 in physiology, and 30 out of 91 in botany. In the senior, it was worse—only one out of 76 in physics, one out of 43 in chemistry, one out of 32 in physiology, and two out of 42 in botany. By the time the students are ready for the higher public, science of all sorts has apparently been quite eliminated from their curriculum, for we find that out of 107 Western Australian entries, there was only one for physics, one for chemistry, one for physical geography, and none for biology and physiology. Even in applied mathematics there were only two entries, against 26 from South Australia. Another subject which seems to meet with disfavour in our schools is German. In the primary we entered one out of 43 (for both States), in the junior two out of 85, in the senior three out of 62, and in the higher public one out of 31. In most of the other subjects, as will be seen from the percentage list, our candidates were, on the whole, about on an equality with those in the Sister State. We desire to call special attention to the deplorable neglect of all scientific subjects. The following shows the percentage of the entries and passes of Western Australian students, compared with the total number from the two States, Western and South Australia:—

Primary.—English, 34 per cent. entries, 35 per cent. passes; arithmetic, 34 per cent. entries, 32 per cent. passes; geography, 40 per cent. entries, 44 per cent. passes; history, 35 per cent. entries, 33 per cent. passes; Greek, 73 per cent. entries, 88 per cent. passes; Latin, 16 per cent. entries, 14 per cent. passes; French, 45 per cent. entries, 41 per cent. passes; German, 2 per cent. entries, 3 per cent. passes; algebra, 34 per cent. entries, 36 per cent. passes; geometry, 30 per cent. entries, 41 per cent. passes; drawing, 31 per cent. entries, 0 per cent. passes; total, 34 per cent. entries, 35 per cent. passes.

Junior.—English literature, 29 per cent. entries, 29 per cent. passes; English history, 32 per cent. entries, 33 per cent. passes; geography, 31 per cent. entries, 41 per cent. passes; Greek, 32 per cent. entries, 31 per cent. passes; Latin, 23 per cent. entries, 20 per cent. passes; French, 39 per cent. entries, 41 per cent. passes; German, 2 per cent. entries, 1 per cent. passes; arithmetic, 26 per cent. entries, 30 per cent. passes; algebra, 28 per cent. entries, 25 per cent. passes; geometry, 27 per cent. entries, 26 per cent. passes; physics, 14 per cent. entries, 7 per cent. passes; inorganic chemistry, 15 per cent. entries, 4 per cent. passes; physiology, 20 per cent. entries, 11 per cent. passes; botany, 21 per cent. entries, 22 per cent. passes; total, 27 per cent. entries, 28 per cent. passes.

Senior.—English literature, 19 per cent. entries, 15 per cent. passes; history, 21 per cent. entries, 25 per cent. passes; Greek, 36 per cent. entries, 32 per cent. passes; Latin, 23 per cent. entries, 27 per cent. passes; French, 31 per cent. entries, 32 per cent. passes; German, 5 per cent. entries, 6 per cent. passes; arithmetic and algebra, 18 per cent. entries, 18 per cent. passes; geometry, 20 per cent. entries, 20 per cent. passes; trigonometry, 26 per cent. entries, 22 per cent. passes; physics, 7 per cent. entries, 12 per cent. passes; chemistry, 23 per cent. entries, 2 per cent. passes; physiology, 15 per cent. entries, 3 per cent. passes; botany, 7 per cent. entries, 5 per cent. passes; physical geography and geology, 24 per cent. entries, 24 per cent. passes; total, 21 per cent. entries, 19 per cent. passes.

Higher Public.—English literature, 49 per cent. entries, 27 per cent. passes; history, 41 per cent. entries, 41 per cent. passes; Greek, 55 per cent. entries, 46 per cent. passes; Latin, 32 per cent. entries, 32 per cent. passes; French, 54 per cent. entries, 57 per cent. passes; German, 3 per cent. entries, 3 per cent. passes; pure mathe-

matics, 22 per cent. entries, 23 per cent. passes; applied mathematics, 7 per cent. entries, 10 per cent. passes; physics, 3 per cent. entries, 4 per cent. passes; chemistry, 5 per cent. entries, 8 per cent. passes; biology and physics, 0 per cent. entries, 0 per cent. passes; physical geography and geology, 10 per cent. entries, 0 per cent. passes; total entries 28 per cent., 24 per cent. passes.

Lectures.

Professor Bottomley gave a series of six lectures in the Queen's Hall, Perth, three at Fremantle, and one at Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, York, Northam, and Bunbury. His subject ("Bacteria") is now generally acknowledged to be of great practical interest and importance; but this was not fully realised by the public at the time, and attendances, though good, were not sufficient to make the venture a financial success. We received from the Government a grant of £100, and the Gilchrist trustees generously donated another £100. The lecturer's fee was £300, and the local expenses amounted to £125 3s. 6d. The receipts from the sale of tickets was £141 5s. 6d.; therefore we were compelled to make good the amount of £83 18s. 6d. from our general funds.

The Government has increased our grant for lecture purposes to £200 for the current year; but the Gilchrist trustees have signified their unwillingness to assist any more, and, therefore, it is at present rather doubtful whether we shall be able to give a course of lectures next winter. Negotiations are, however, in progress, and we may rely upon Dr. Roberts, who has so kindly assisted us in the past, to do the best we can to meet our offer and desires.

The Town Office.

Owing to the general public wish for an office in the centre of Perth, where they can obtain information with respect to lectures or examinations, pay, fees, etc., the committee has secured an office in Forrest Chambers, and has appointed a secretary. At first there was a little confusion, on account of the change of address, but most of those interested are acquiring the habit of applying direct to Forrest Chambers, instead of to the Observatory as heretofore.