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there is no university in the west; but there are certain scholarships in Western Australia depending upon the results of the Adelaide senior examination, and this most probably provides the reason for the practice of the Western Australian schools. As matters stand now the University of Adelaide provides an examination which not only saves the Western Australians a proportion of the expense they would have to incur for examiners for their scholarships, but also places the South Australian candidates at such a disadvantage that it is almost impossible for them to take a high position in the senior honour list. The uninitiated may counsel the adoption of the Western Australian method; but, in the best interests of education, one may hope that the South Australian schools will not swerve from the line they have taken.

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THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

LOADING THE HONOURS LISTS.

THE SENIOR.

[By Oincer.]

The schools of the State have once more begun their year's work. In many of the classes pupils are being prepared who hope in December to see their names appear in the lists published by the University. Examinations, rightly or wrongly, are now a most important factor in school life. Each year parents and the public generally scan the examination lists, and often from imperfect knowledge form an erroneous opinion of a school. For the last two years the senior public examination general honour list has not contained the name of a single South Australian candidate in the first six who have secured distinction. How can this be explained? To what extent, if at all, is the teaching of South Australian schools inferior to the teaching of the Western Australian?

—The Conditions.—

In accordance with the University regulations dealing with the senior public each candidate is required to satisfy the Public Examination Board in at least five of the following subjects. The figures on the right represent the maximum marks allotted to each subject:—1. English literature, 300; 2. English History, 300; 3. Greek, 400; 4. Latin, 400; 5. French, 300; 6. German, 300; 7. arithmetic and algebra, 300; 8. geometry, 300; 9. trigonometry, 200; 10. physics, 200; 11. chemistry, 200; 12. physiology, 200; 13. botany, 200; 14. physical geography and geology, 200; 15. drawing and theory of music do not count for prizes. The names of the successful candidates, arranged in alphabetical order, showing the subjects in which the candidate passed and the last place of education from which the candidate comes, are posted at the University and published in the press and in the report on public examinations issued by the University. The names of candidates who have distinguished themselves in the several subjects are also published in order of merit in the special honour lists. The names of candidates who have distinguished themselves in the whole examination are also published in order of merit in the general honour list. The position on the general honour list is determined by the aggregate of marks in not more than seven subjects. To the first three candidates on the general honour list who are under 17 years of age on December 1 in the year in which the examination is held are awarded prizes of the value of £10, £5, and £3 respectively.

—The General Honour List Analysed.—

In the general honour list of the senior examination, November, 1906, the following is the order of merit of the first six candidates who have distinguished themselves in the whole examination:—

1. Ferguson, A. S., Christian Brothers' College, Perth.
2. Reedy, L. C., Christian Brothers' College, Perth.
3. Campbell, W. R., Scotch College, Claremont, Western Australia.
4. Turnbull, A. P., Perth High School.
5. Tucker, R. S., Scotch College, Claremont.
6. Walker, H. N., Perth High School.

All these candidates are over age, and their performances are herewith detailed:—

Ferguson, A. S.—First in general honour list, senior, 1906 (over age); first in higher public honour list, 1906; fifth in general honour list, senior, 1905 (over age); passed the higher in Greek, Latin (credit), French (credit), 1905; fourteenth in general honour list, senior, 1904; passed the higher public in Greek, French, and Latin, 1904.

Reedy, L. C.—Second in general honour list, senior, 1906 (over age); fourth in general honour list, higher, 1906 (over age); third in general honour list, senior, 1905 (over age); passed higher in Greek, Latin, mathematics, 1905; fifth in general honour list, senior, 1904 (over age); thirteenth in general honour list, higher, 1904; passed senior in six subjects in 1903; passed higher in Latin and Greek, 1903.

Campbell, W. R.—Third in general honour list, senior, 1906 (over age); fourth in general honour list, higher, 1906 (over age); sixth in general honour list, senior, 1905 (over age); passed higher in English history (credit), Latin, French, 1905; twenty-sixth in general honour list, senior, 1904 (over age); passed higher in history and French, 1904.

Turnbull, A. P.—Fourth in general honour list, senior, 1906 (over age); eighth in general honour list, higher, 1906 (over age); tenth in general honour list, senior, 1905 (over age); passed higher five subjects (one with credit), 1905; twenty-seventh in general honour list, senior, 1904; passed higher in Greek, Latin, French, 1904.

Tucker, R. S.—Fifth in general honour list, senior, 1906 (over age); fourth in general honour list, higher, 1906; eleventh in general honour list, senior, 1905 (over age); passed higher in history (credit), Latin, mathematics, applied mathematics, 1905; fourteenth in general honour list, senior, 1904; passed higher in mathematics, 1904.

Walker, H. N.—Sixth in general honour list, senior, 1906 (over age); passed higher in history, Greek, Latin, French, 1906; seventh in general honour list, senior, 1905 (over age); passed higher public in English history, Latin, 1905; twenty-ninth in general honour list, 1904; passed higher public in history, 1904.

The other Western Australian candidates who were placed in the general honour list of the senior of 1906 were:—Eighth place, Horan, J. W. (over age); ninth place, Leedman, C. H.; twelfth place (aeq.), Gemmell, J. O.; twelfth place (aeq.), Landvogt, J. I. (over age); eighteenth place, Parry, R. E. (over age); twenty-fourth place, Medcalf, F. G. (over age); twenty-fifth place, Pidgeon, B. F. (over age); thirty-sixth place, Pike, R. W. It will be interesting to examine their record:—

Horan, J. W.—Eighth place in general honour list, senior, 1906 (over age); passed higher in history, Greek, French, mathematics, 1906; seventh in general honour list, senior, 1905; passed higher in mathematics, 1905.

Leedman, C. H.—Ninth place in general honour list, senior, 1906; passed higher in history and Greek, 1906; passed senior in five subjects, 1905.

Gemmell, J. O.—Twelfth place in general honour list, senior, 1906; passed higher in Greek, Latin, French, 1906.

Landvogt, J. I.—Twelfth place in general honour list, senior, 1906 (over age); passed higher in history, Latin, Greek, 1906; nineteenth place in general honour list, senior, 1905 (over age); passed senior in five subjects, 1904.

Parry, R. E.—Eighteenth place in general honour list, senior, 1906 (over age); passed higher in history, Latin, French, mathematics, 1906; twenty-second place in general honour list, senior, 1905; passed higher in English, French, mathematics, 1905; passed senior in eight subjects, 1904.

Medcalf, F. G.—Twenty-fourth place in general honour list, senior, 1906 (over age).

Pidgeon, B. F.—Twenty-fifth place in general honour list, senior, 1906 (over age); passed higher in English, Latin, French, mathematics, 1906; passed senior in six subjects, 1905.

Pike, R. W.—Thirty-sixth place in general honour list, senior, 1906.

—Important Conclusions.—

Of the 17 Western Australian candidates placed in the senior general honour list of 1906 nine had previously obtained a place in the senior general honour list, whilst two others had previously passed the senior examination. Of the first six in the 1906 senior general honour list all have now been placed three times in different senior general honour lists, whilst one of the leading six, who are all Western Australians, has had the distinction of passing the senior in four successive years. Of the 26 South Australians placed in the 1906 senior general honour list not one has passed the senior

before, to say nothing of having appeared in the general honour list of the senior examination. A glance at the performances, detailed above, of Ferguson, Reedy, Campbell, and others will show that it is the custom of many of the Western Australians to take the senior and the higher public at the same time. Of the South Australians one senior honour candidate only (from a girls' school) passed the higher public in one subject, not another, as far as can be seen from the published lists, having attempted the Western Australian method. The same system with similar results has been at work in the senior in 1905 and 1904.

—Will the University Intervene?—

It surely was not the intention of the University Council that the same candidates should have their names published for several years in succession in the honour lists of the same examination, and that candidates who are taking the higher public should be competitors with those who are sitting for the senior. If the senior is to be regarded as in any way a test of the teaching of the schools who prepare candidates some means will have to be devised by the University to place the competing schools on an equal footing.

—Mode of Reform.—

The packing of the senior honour lists with "twicers" and "thricers" could be met by a regulation that a candidate who passes the examinations more than once may not have his name published in the honour lists, but will receive his senior certificate with a record of his successes noted. This would entail a slight loss of revenue, but would purge the examination of an abuse. The question of over-age candidates should be carefully considered. At present they are excluded from prizes, but appear in the honour lists, and there is no doubt that their presence in the latter prevents many deserving under-age candidates from securing the honours to which they are entitled. In 1906 in the senior general honour list 17 out of 43 were over age. In English literature 4 out of 14, in history 4 out of 12, in Greek 7 out of 8, in Latin 10 out of 17, in French 6 out of 10, in German 2 out of 5, in arithmetic and algebra 8 out of 17, in geometry 8 out of 21, in trigonometry 3 out of 9, in chemistry 3 out of 11, in botany 1 out of 3, in physical geography 3 out of 5, in physics and physiology none. As a limit of age is prescribed, it would seem to be desirable to publish the names of over-age candidates in a separate list.

Occidit miseris crumbe repetita magistros.

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Miss Clytie Hine, who won the Elder Scholarship last year at the Adelaide Conservatorium, while spending a holiday in Victoria was induced by friends to enter for the scholarship offered by the Marshall-Hall Conservatorium, and she was again successful. Miss Hine, who has sung to many of the leading musicians of the other State, and whose voice and musical ability have been highly spoken of, has still two years to run at the Adelaide Conservatorium, but she has handed over her scholarship to one of the other competitors, who is thus entitled to free tuition at the institution.

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THE ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

As advertised elsewhere, to-day is the last day of entry for the violin, pianoforte, and violoncello scholarships. The attention of intending students, and also previous students, is called to the times at which the director and teachers will meet them to arrange lessons, &c.