The Register.

ADELAIDE: TUESDAY, SEPT. 18, 1894.

The following candidates were successful in the Preliminary Examination held at the University:

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The Register.

ADELAIDE: WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 19, 1894.

THE UNIVERSITY PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

Rather unusual severity seems to have characterized the Preliminary Examination in the University this year, but one may judge from the fact that nearly five out of every eight of the candidates have had to suffer the unpleasant ordeal of being plucked. It may be, however, that the standard has really remained about the same, but that the average number of the aspiring ones has not been so high as in previous years owing to a growing desire among younger students to submit to the testing process of the chief seat of learning in the colony. By the way, it is especially noticeable that the proportion of girl candidates is largely increasing, and it is clear that among the various generations the monopoly of University study formerly enjoyed by the sterner sex will be more and more extensively challenged. That there is justification for this is evidenced by the large number of girls included in the pass-list published by us on Tuesday. The Preliminary Examination, as we have more than once pointed out on previous occasions, cannot be said to supply a full test of the curriculum with which it is desirable that all the lower and middle classes of the schools should follow out. It is held during the month of September rather than at a later period of the year in order that candidates may have an opportunity of submitting to the test a paper for their age by themselves for the Junior or Senior Examination in November of the same year. The subjects prescribed for the Preliminary Examination are really the compulsory subjects of the University matriculation, or, in the case of the Adelaide University, the Senior Examination. The idea which prompted the framers of the present system is to limit the first test to reading, English, and arithmetic which will therefore be obvious.

It was thought that, as failure to reach the standard in those branches must necessarily entail exclusion from the University classes, the candidate knowledge was not satisfactory might be spared the trouble of sitting, and the University the task of examining them in other subjects. The truth, however, was never intended that the Preliminary Examination should, in point of time, be so completely dissociated from the public examinations as it has been in the common practice of the schools and of the candidates. If we go into one of the schools whose pupils present themselves annually before the University examiners we shall find that no class is studying for the Preliminary, another for the Junior, and a third for the Senior Examination. The initial idea of getting through the Preliminary and one of the other examinations in the same year has practically been given up, very few candidates as a matter of fact, submitting themselves to the first test in September with the intention of taking up the balance of the subjects later on in the year. The consequence is that in the Preliminary classes English and arithmetic are gradually squeezing all other subjects into a corner, and, from present appearances, unless the University author...