The Preliminary Examination.—September is always an important month for the schools. In the more advanced educational establishments special efforts are made for the securing of passes at the Preliminary Examination. While in the public schools there is a general desire to make a creditable show at the great popular concerts given in the Jubilee Exhibition Building. The pass-lists of the University Preliminary Examination will be found in another column of to-day's issue, and its great length affords evidence of the increasing popularity of this annual test. Even so recently as in September of last year there were only 165 passes. The successful candidates on this occasion numbered 321, or about 68 per cent. of the total number of those who presented themselves. It is interesting to note the relative proportions of the two sexes and their variations from year to year. In September, 1890, for example, there were 61 passes, and in the list of the successful students appeared the names of no less than sixty-one girls. This year, although the aggregate of passes has risen to 321, the girls only number sixty-four. This comparative, although not exact, falling-off is in strong contrast with the fact that the list of successful boys candidates now numbers 157, or more than double the total of 1890. It might seem from this that we believe are approximately proportionate to the entries of children belonging to each sex, that the passing of an examination as a test of the year's work is not now considered so necessary in the case of a girl as in that of a boy. It would hardly be safe, however, to deduce any general conclusion from the figures for two or three years. It is true that in the past boys have in a special degree had to look to ward for earning their living in pursuits for which their fitness seemed to a large extent to be estimated by their proficiency in such subjects as English composition, spelling, and arithmetic. But a change has taken place in this respect. Parents, finding that clerical occupations offer but poor prospects for their sons, are becoming more and more reconciled to the idea of their turning their attention to rural industries. On the other hand, the need is being increasingly recognised of preparing girls by means of a good education for such active and remunerative duties as they are best suited to perform. It is not improbable, therefore, that the increase in girl candidates will in future years keep pace with if it does not exceed the increase in boy candidates.

Professor Mitchell, the new Hughes Professor of English Literature, acted as examiner for the first time on this occasion, and in setting his English paper he indulged in a piece of mild pleasantry by getting the candidates to correct the bad grammar which he introduced in a sentence conveying, among other information, the true statement that it is as hard for young folks to pass an examination as to pass an attractive shop window. Those candidates in the examination-room who believed that they would pass no doubt appreciated the joke, even in the midst of what most of them was a rather trying ordeal. The light in which they viewed it now is no doubt affected by the appearance or non-appearance of their names in the pateful list printed elsewhere.