

Register  
September 1895

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.—September is always an important month for the schools. In the more advanced educational establishments special efforts are then 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 103 passes. The successful candidates on this occasion number 231, or about 58 per cent. of the total number 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 154 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 231, the girls only number sixty-four. This comparative, although not actual, falling-off is in strong contrast with the fact that the list of successful boy candidates now numbers 167, or more than double the total of 1890. It might seem from the passes this year, which 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 forward to earning their living in pursuits for which their fitness could to a large extent 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 too 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 to most of them was a rather trying ordeal. The light in which they view it now is no doubt affected by the appearance or non-appearance of their names in the fateful list printed elsewhere.

Register  
30 October 1895

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE  
EXTENSION LECTURES.

Professor RENNIE will deliver his last Lecture on the "ATMOSPHERE" at 5 o'clock THIS EVENING. Special reference to the discovery of "Argon," the new Gas.  
CHAS. R. HODGE, Registrar.

Register 30<sup>th</sup> October 1895

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION  
LECTURES.

Professor Bandy delivered the last of his series of extension lectures upon "Rome" at the University on Wednesday evening. Throughout the course the Professor has attracted large and attentive audiences, and has undoubtedly become a popular lecturer. The last lecture was a most graphic description of the Faneum, which was built by the Roman General Agrippa upon the site of the first temple, previously destroyed. The lecturer first dealt with the life and work of the Emperor Augustus, and recited the genealogy of the Emperor's family-tree with the readiness and accuracy of the chronological table, and the intricacies of the relationships were shown with an enviable degree of simplicity. In describing the wonderful Faneum of Agrippa the Professor freely criticised the records of standard authors, and, following the golden rule of true archaeologists, told his listeners, not only of the historical records, but of what he had seen and minutely examined for himself. The temple as it now stands was shown in various aspects, and the audience was held in rapturous interest as the Professor dilated upon the greatness and massiveness of the structure and the exquisite beauty and gorgeousness of the internal arrangements. Truly a place to inspire one with awe as a triumph of human ingenuity, taste, and skill. The appointments in gold, bronze, and precious uncles could never be appreciated or estimated by their costliness, and under the spell of the Professor's enthusiasm one felt the keenest disappointment in the knowledge that this building had become a ruin, and was only preserved as at present by its having been dedicated as a temple, having thus been rescued from utter demolition. The lecture was concluded with a description of the Atrium Vestal, or the house of the Vestal Virgins, and a hope was expressed that the audience would fully appreciate the fact that the Romans were even more civilized than the people of to-day. It was pointed out that the importance of the establishment of the Roman Imperial Government could not be estimated in its value to the western civilized nations. The last of the series of lectures on "The Atmosphere" will be given this evening by Professor Rennie at the University. In this lecture he will deal with the history of the discovery of the new gas argon, and will discuss several interesting questions in connection with it. The discovery of helium will also be touched upon.