of their opportunities. But the splendid response now made in answer to the invitation to the young people to prepare themselves for University examinations should go far to show that there is no disposition to shirk the hard work which is incidental to the acquisition of knowledge in any branch of science or of skill in any of the arts. Last year the successful candidates at the junior examination in theory of music numbered forty-four in the first class and forty-seven in the second class. This year the numbers respectively are forty-five and fifty-three. Again, in the senior section of the same examination, the first class last year included nineteen and the second class ten, while the numbers for this year are thirteen and eighteen. The advance in one year from seventeen places to no less than thirty-one in the senior division is indeed a most hopeful sign, and indicates a determination on the part of the students not to let their studies drop directly they have passed the first test.

There is something more than the mere desire for public honour in the very strong desire, exhibited in modern times among almost all sections of the people, to pass the examinations prescribed by various institutions. Some candidates, no doubt, go up for examinations with very little aim but that of showing themselves before the world at large. It was this form of intellectual vanity that Lord North satirized when he wrote:—

"To have a thing is nothing if you’re not allowed to show it, and to know a thing is nothing unless others know you know it."

But against those animated by such motives one must in fairness place the large number of candidates who really study the subject for its own sake, and who use the examinations merely as a means of testing their own progress, and deciding at what stage they are ready to go on to a more advanced grade of work. For good or for evil the examination system is firmly established among us, and there can be no doubt that it has come to stay. For this reason it is of the utmost importance that the standard tests should be based upon the most liberal and enlightened ideals. The suggestion that federated Boards of Examiners should be established by all the Australian Universities was again brought under public notice by Canon Flou in the recent meetings of the Science Association. It is difficult to understand why this proposal has not made more headway of recent years. Even in the case of school examinations as those in music it is surely undeniable, as we have more than once urged, that an examination by a Board of well-qualified experts must always be more satisfactory than one conducted by a single individual, however distinguished, more especially in a department like the practice of music, in which so much of praise or of blame depends upon the individual tastes of the examiner. There is also under the Board system a better chance of carrying out the rule that candidates should so far as their papers are concerned be perfectly anonymous, and distinguishable only by numbers. In every case, of course, the examiner should abstain from perusing the papers of the candidates while engaged in a written examination, although in our local Universities, if we are not misinformed, this wholesome practice is not always strictly observed.

A new system of public examination in languages will be inaugurated in the University next year by the partial