

MEASLES V. THE UNIVERSITY
"PRELIMINARY" EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir - The unprecedented prevalence of measles, which appears at the present to have attained to its highest degree of intensity, and the consequent extraordinary depletion in all our educational institutions will in many cases prevent some 50 per cent. of candidates from presenting themselves - a result much to be deprecated. The danger, too, of spreading the infection in young localities by the gathering together of new people from all quarters is so palpable that it is the wish of many parents and teachers that the examination should be postponed say to the end of September next, and it is very much hoped that the University authorities will take this suggestion into their serious consideration.

I am, Sir, &c.,
TEACHER.

UNIVERSITY PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS.

For some time correspondence has been taking place between the University and the Collegiate Schools' Association in reference to a supplementary examination being held owing to the fact that a number of our candidates have been thrown back in their studies by the prevalence of the measles. Mr. C. R. Rodge, the Registrar, wrote a few days ago stating that the request would be laid before the Council, which meets on Friday, and that it would probably be agreed to. As the outcome of a meeting of the Schools' Association held on Saturday evening a deputation from that body waited upon the Chancellor of the University on Monday morning. The result of the interview was that the Chancellor has decided to ask the Council to extend the date of entry until Monday next, and also to hold a supplementary examination at a later date for candidates who are actually ill at the present time. Upon the general question of the wisdom of delaying the examinations a letter appears in our present issue which very forcibly puts the case in favour of postponement. The circumstances are quite exceptional, and unless there are insuperable difficulties in the way of giving effect to the proposal of our correspondent it is to be hoped that it will be adopted.

DEATH OF DR. J. W. LEITCH.—DR. J. W. Leitch died at his parents' residence, Anzac-street, early on Monday morning, the cause of death being consumption, which supervened on a neglected attack of influenza in February last. The deceased gentleman had an exceptionally brilliant career as a scholar. Born in May, 1837, J. W. Leitch at an early age gave evidence of the possession of exceptional talents. In December, 1878, when eleven years old, he took an exhibition scholarship of £20 per year for three years at the Grosvenor State School. In December, 1879, he passed the primary examination at the University, and in December, 1880, he matriculated first class with honours, and took the foundation scholarship at Prince Alfred College. Following up his success he took the University Scholarship of £50 per year for three years in March of 1882. His next achievement was the winning of the South Australian Scholarship of £200 per annum for four years when only seventeen years of age. This was in December, 1884, the year in which he also secured his B.A. degree. Proceeding to Europe he, in July, 1889, took the M.B. and Ch.M. degrees at Edinburgh at the age of twenty-two. Dr. Leitch practised three years at Kadina, and nearly a year at Orororo. He earned the esteem of all who knew him, and was much thought of among the medical profession, who recognised him as a devotee of science for its own sake and not for the hope of pecuniary reward or the acquirement of honours. Dr. Rodgers, of Adelaide, who studied with Dr. Leitch and was one of his close personal friends, says that the deceased was a clear-headed man, a solid thinker, and very logical. During his course he was not exactly first in anything, but he was well up in everything—a good all-round man. Dr. Leitch was most popular with the students, and indeed with every one who knew him. "I don't think

THE DEATH OF DR. LEITCH.

A career of great promise closed on Monday morning when Dr. James W. Leitch died of phthisis at his father's house in Anzac-street at the early age of 57. He was born in 1837, and in December, 1878, he took an exhibition at the Grosvenor State School of £50 a year for three years. In 1880 he passed his matriculation examination in the first class and took a Foundation Scholarship at Prince Alfred College. In March, 1882, when 14 years old, he took a University scholarship of £20 per year for four years and the B.A. degree in July, 1889, he took the M.B., Ch.M. degree at Edinburgh University at the age of 22. On returning to South Australia he practised at Kadina for three years and at Orororo for about 12 months.

Our Glenelg correspondent writes—"Probably in no part of the colony apart from the metropolis will the news of his death be received with deeper regret than at Glenelg where the deceased gentleman had a large circle of friends and acquaintances. His death was the topic of extensive and sympathetic conversation among the many old college mates in many places of Monday afternoon and evening. Dr. Leitch's unassuming characteristics, and love for all things manly were well known, and the appreciation of his character was only equalled by the admiration which was entertained for his intellectual genius and rare abilities. To the exhibitors of our State schools Dr. Leitch's brilliant career was ever held up as evidence of what might be accomplished by the application of brains without money."

Our Kadina correspondent wired on Monday evening—"General enquirers were expressed here to-day when the intelligence of the death of Dr. Leitch arrived. The deceased practised here with Dr. Robinson for some time, and during his residence in this township gained the esteem of every one. Many friends had hoped recently that the doctor was improving towards recovery."

"One who knew him" writes—"I had the pleasure of Dr. Leitch's acquaintance for the greater part of two years, and the memory of his friendship will always be present with me. He was kind and genial to a degree—a scholar of exceptional merit, and a gentleman in every act. It was his province to act as medical officer, in conjunction with Dr. W. N. Robinson, in Kadina and the Wallaroo Mines, and when he left for Orororo the united testimony was the best proof of the high esteem entertained for Dr. Leitch. One of his leading characteristics was a devotion to the science of pathology. To him work was a pleasure, and at all hours of night or day he willingly sacrificed himself for the benefit of his patients. Science could have no more worthy disciple than he who sacrificed himself at its altar. But beyond his capacity as a medical officer he specially endeared himself to a certain circle of friends in the country towns where he resided by reason of his geniality, his quiet capable explanations and his humanitarianism as well as his splendid sense of brotherhood. Those who knew him as a friend will indeed feel that the world has lost a sterling man. I knew him under circumstances when friendship was put to a severe test, and Dr. Leitch rose to the sublime height of friendly feeling. The people of Kadina and Wallaroo Mines not only esteemed Dr. Leitch while he was there, but will cherish his memory as that of a loved one."

THE FORTHCOMING PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I believe that "Teacher" has voiced the feelings of many school representatives, and would the University Council trustees please for postponement a boon would be conferred on the community. Students who have the preliminary and Junior or senior in view this year will not be greatly disappointed, and if they refer back they will find that comparatively recently they were required to undergo the whole examination at once. With regard to outside examiners it would be interesting to us teachers to know whether we should take our candidates back to the State; for instance, will "fare and travel" and the rule of "fresh" be indispensable, and will we be permitted to distinguish between "fresh" and "old" students? Are there any deputation committees to be formed to go to-day in the Criminal Court on the part of the Banking Company, was placed on Alfred Tones, formerly cashier of the Melbourne, August 22.

PROSECTOR OF A BANK