

^{Register}
PRELIMINARY GUIDE.—We have received from Mr. G. G. Newman, B.A., (London), Head Master of Whinham College, Preliminary Guide No. 6. This has reference to the University Examinations which have just been completed, and, like its predecessors, it will be of inestimable value alike to the students who have so recently had their knowledge put to the test and to those who will in due course have to undergo a similar ordeal. It will be consolatory to those candidates who have failed to pass to know that Mr. Newman considers the Examination to have been a very severe one. The arithmetic paper he reports contained four very easy and four somewhat posing examples. "The English paper," he continues, "was certainly one of the hardest that has yet been set by the Board of Examiners. The analysis was intricate, and almost all the words to parse were knotty, while some of the words chosen for explanation were above the heads of schoolboys and schoolgirls." 12/3/97

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I am glad that "Teacher" has questioned the fairness of asking children the meaning of such difficult words as "criterion," "explicit," and "autocratic." If the children themselves, unable to answer these, on returning home look up the dictionary to discover the meaning, will they be any the wiser when they read the explanation given, and will they be able to place the word in a sentence? Let those who think so give them the dictionary and test the result. A little while back words were asked like "sundry," "forlorn," and so on, and to these no exception could be taken, but to spring difficult words like those given upon the candidates is very discouraging to the teachers, who, perhaps, among all the hundreds of words they have given to their classes in preparation for this question would not have struck a single one that was set. Then, again, they may have taken their classes through the grammar-book, dwelling particularly on plurals of nouns, genders, inflection of pronouns, conjugation of verbs, and general elementary accidence, and all this goes for nothing, as only one question from the grammar is asked, and that dealing with a part of the subject which is much more suited for boys and girls of older growth.

I am, Sir, &c.,

PRECEPTOR.

Register 12/3/97

SIR THOMAS ELDER'S BENEFACTIONS.—As a fresh proof of the thoughtfulness and generosity of the late Sir Thomas Elder, it may be added that the legacies to public institutions and charities are expressly declared by the testator to be free of duty. As the duty is 10 per cent. this is really an addition of £15,400 to the princely gift to the colony, bringing up the total to a few hundreds over £170,000. With regard to the donation of £65,000 to the Adelaide University, under the University Act of 1874 the Government is authorized to pay a subsidy of 5 per cent. provided the total amount does not exceed £10,000 in any one year. The Government subsidy in respect to the Elder University legacy is £3,250.

The Register.

ADELAIDE: FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1897.

THE ELDER BEQUESTS FOR EDUCATION AND ART.

What are the most truly practical objects to which a wealthy philanthropist can devote that portion of his fortune which he designs for public uses? This is a question which must, to some extent, obtrude itself in connection with such splendid benefactions as that of the late Alfred Nobel, the celebrated manufacturer of blasting materials, who has left about two millions sterling, the income from which is to be spent in the promotion of science and peace; and it will also be locally discussed throughout the whole of Australia in relation to the munificent bequests which the late Sir Thomas Elder has made for the furtherance of education and for the enrichment of our National Gallery. Ruskin devoted the main part of his book on "The Two Parts" to demonstrating that theoretical studies which result in the promotion of knowledge and of the fine arts, such as painting and sculpture, "ought to take rank above all pursuits which have any taint in them of subserviency to life, in so far as all such tendency is the sign of less eternal and less holy function." To reduce this idea to more prosaic form, it may be said that a man who has a real taste for art can receive far more pleasure from the sight of a picture than from that of a share-list or of a machine; and one of the prime reasons for the eternal justice underlying this fact is that the first is absolutely desirable in itself, while the second is only a means to an end. To a dealer the share-list is worthy of close attention, because he reasons that more business may mean more money, and more money may increase his own facilities for enjoyment as well as those of his family. After a time, however, the blind pursuit of riches becomes so much a second nature that many men in

various walks of life—whether in commerce, manufacturing industry, or agriculture—actually forget that there are any things in the world which are worthy to be enjoyed for their own sake. On all hands we may see evidences that the so-called “Almighty Dollar” fails exactly where it might be supposed to be eminently successful—that is to say, in making people happy. In Australia, perhaps in a less degree than in America, but still here also to a most noticeable extent, the