

Register Nov. 16th 07.

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Register Nov. 19th 1907.

JUNIOR EXAMINATION AND A BLUNDER.

In several quarters in the city on Thursday and Friday was discussed by students who are sitting for the Junior Public Examination the question whether a fresh paper in English literature should not be set. We have received enquiries from various candidates concerning the matter. The facts are stated to be that after candidates had assembled at the examination hall on Thursday to sit for the arithmetic paper, owing to some error a number of English literature papers were distributed to some of the candidates. Several students are said to have retained these papers, with the intention of turning the authorities' mistake to their own profit between the time when the arithmetic examination was over and that in English literature began. The result was that many of the candidates knew some of the questions in the latter paper before they entered the hall to sit for it. A reporter communicated with Professor Rennie (Chairman of the Public Examinations Board), who stated:—"By an accident a few junior English papers were distributed in lieu of the junior arithmetic papers. The error was discovered immediately after the distribution had commenced, and long before it was completed. The papers were at once collected, but it appears that at least one candidate was mean enough to secrete the English paper and take it away. It cannot be affirmed that only one paper was thus dealt with, but it is possible with only very few. Only an hour and a half intervened between the two examinations, and the paper was of such a character that very little advantage could be gained from possession of it during the time. A meeting of the Public Examinations Committee, which includes the Public Examinations Board, the head masters of Prince Alfred and St. Peter's Colleges, and representatives of the other schools, was summoned at once, and the members were unanimously of opinion that it was inadvisable and impracticable to set a new paper, which would necessitate 540 candidates sitting again. This examination is not a competitive one. The examination is a competitive one only for the Tennyson medal and the honour list. With regard to these the committee has recommended that if the examiners have any doubt about advantage being gained by a sight of the missing paper a fresh examination will be held to determine the position of the candidates for the Tennyson medal and the honour list. It is not expected, however, that this will be necessary."

MIXING UP EXAMINATION PAPERS.

The higher public and the junior public examinations in connection with the Adelaide University began on Thursday. A little delay took place in the morning in distributing the arithmetic papers to the junior candidates, while the higher public candidates were also kept waiting, with the result that the period allowed for lunch had to be considerably curtailed. But a more serious circumstance was that to some of the boys taking the junior examination, the English papers, which should not have been handed out until the afternoon, were distributed either with or instead of the arithmetic papers. The boys sat on one side of the Jubilee Exhibition Building and the girls on the other, with the students who were taking the higher public examination between them. The mistake was only made in respect to the boys, but in one case at least the English paper was taken to the headmaster of his college, who immediately rang up the University and informed the authorities of the error. A copy of the paper was also carried to a ladies' school, and, as it was expected that another paper would be substituted for it in the examination, it was used as a test paper for the candidates. However, no change was made, and the boys and girls who were fortunate enough to see the paper were all the happier in consequence.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The string section of the Conservatorium Orchestra gave a concert at the Elder Hall on Monday evening before a large audience. A novel and attractive programme was presented with a gratifying measure of success. A large force was engaged, the parts were well balanced, and the general tone quality was full and rich. Ample evidence was afforded of thorough and painstaking rehearsal, and a capital ensemble was, with a few exceptions, maintained. The first movement from Hofmann's "Serenade in D, op. 72," which opened the concert, was rendered with good expression and general finish, and delicate work was done in Tchaikowsky's charming "Andante cantabile," for muted strings, which pleased the house. Volkmann's "Serenade No. 3," for strings and cello solo, was given with commendable unity of purpose, and the effects of light and shade were well brought out. Mr. Harold Parsons invested the solo with appropriate breadth and warmth, and the piece proved one of the most successful of the evening. Wagner's effectively scored "Traume," for violin solo, strings, and organ, formed a welcome item. It was given with a good ensemble and warmth well in keeping with the emotional character of the music. Miss Elsie Cowell played the solo with taste and finish, and Mr. Arthur Williamson exhibited judgment and skill in his use of the organ. Schumann's delicate little "Abendlied" was presented with much refinement and generally accurate intonation, and Grieg's merry "Anitra's dance," from the "Peer Gynt Suite, No. 1," which concluded the programme, was played with capital spirit, though the ensemble occasionally left something to be desired. Miss Gladys Taylor played Noszkowski's "Polonaise, op. 40," for pianoforte, in a neat and careful manner, and Miss Ermytrude van Senden achieved a fair amount of success in Godard's melodious "Canzonetta," for violin solo, with pizzicato accompaniment for strings and viola obbligato. The latter was played by Miss Clarice Gmeiner. Beethoven's famous classic for tenor, "Adelaide," was sung by Mr. Harold Savage with a good, full tone and careful expression. A sympathetic cello obbligato was furnished by Mr. Parsons. Miss Otilie Uffindell, a young pianist of much promise, rendered Lachner's "Prelude and toccata" in a capital style, that gave ample evidences of first-class schooling. The opening was treated with good breadth, and capable technique was displayed in the more rapidly moving passages of the "Tocatta." Three numbers from Landon Ronald's song-cycle "Summertime"—"Morning," "Evening," and "Night"—were presented by Mr. Noel M. Hack. In the first good voice management was displayed, and the second was interpreted with sympathy and refinement. These remarks also apply to the concluding song, "Night." The pianoforte accompaniments were played by Miss Guli Hack, A.R.C.M., and Mr. Fred Bevan. Miss Cowell was a steady and reliable leader, and Mr. H. Heinicke conducted with decision and judgment.

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THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor.

Sir—At the Junior Public Examination held on Thursday last English literature papers were fortuitously supplied to candidates instead of arithmetic papers. The superintendents, upon discovering this error, ordered all papers to be immediately returned, but some of the candidates, seeing such a mean opportunity, did not fail to avail themselves of it. They remained in possession of the English papers, and did not lose any time during lunch hour to provide for the afternoon by securing assistance. They also did not hesitate to aid other candidates by acquainting them with the nature of the paper. It is not fair for a portion of the candidates to be thus favored. It would only be proper to have the examination again, as those who do pass with such unjust and foul means are undeserving of it, and therefore should not be allowed to have it without earning it honestly.—I am, &c.,

JUSTICE.

Sir—It is generally understood that at the recent junior public examinations, owing to some error, the English literature papers were distributed to a few of the candidates instead of the arithmetic papers. Some of the candidates did not return the English paper when requested. Between the time that the arithmetic was over and the English literature began those candidates had time to prepare model answers. This is not fair to other candidates who did not take a mean advantage of this opportunity. I and others who were not present in the morning heard some of the questions when we arrived at the buildings.—I am, &c.,

A CANDIDATE.

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THE UNIVERSITY EXAMS.

To the Editor.

Sir—The University examiners in Adelaide mark more severely than anywhere in the world. As they are so strict, they should be careful that their own test papers should be supervised before the candidates receive them. There is an evident misprint in the junior Algebra paper—5x in No. 1 seems to be intended for 5y. On the first day of the examination some candidates received English literature papers instead of arithmetic. Not all of these were given up, so that there may be a chance of the Tennyson medal being unfairly awarded. The supervisors should be provided with timetables to ascertain what papers are required, and when.—I am, &c.,

G. G. NEWMAN.

Sir—Owing to an error, English questions, which should have been kept dark till the afternoon, were distributed at the junior public arithmetic examination on Thursday morning, thus giving certain candidates a prior view. All the papers so given out were not returned to the officials, and some candidates were thus enabled in the mid-day interval to prepare model answers. It is to be hoped that another examination will be held, as otherwise grave injustice will be done. I am not writing this to ventilate a personal grievance. For those who did not see the "advance copies" the examination was just, but those who did see them are not entitled to whatever place it may give them on the pass or honors list.—I am, &c.,

FAIRPLAY.

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MEMORIAL TO THE LATE MR. ANDREW SCOTT.

We are informed by the secretary of the Head Masters' Association (Mr. W. Bennett) that the members at a meeting on the 20th inst. expressed themselves as being heartily in sympathy with the movement for establishing a memorial to the late Mr. Andrew Scott, B.A., and pledged themselves to do all in their power to make it a success. The proposed memorial will probably take the form of an annual prize in connection with the Adelaide University.