

Register December 10th 1885

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.—The returns of the junior and matriculation examinations would seem to show either that the standard of education in the colony is becoming lower or that the University examiners are getting stricter. From a glimpse at the papers set this year we are inclined to think that the questions asked are, if anything, rather easier than they were last year. The standard fixed by the individual examiners may have been higher, but even this would hardly account for the number of candidates who failed to pass. Last year out of 107 candidates for the junior examination 80 passed, 19 in the first class, 26 in the second, and 35 in the third. This year the number of passes out of 128 candidates was only 67, of whom 4 passed in the first class, 14 in the second, and 49 in the third. In other words, nearly half the candidates failed to pass, and of those who were successful the great majority passed in the third class. The results of the matriculation examination, although they indicate an advance in the actual number of passes, show also that the advance was only made in the third class. The first and second classes are each smaller this year by four than they were in 1884. The general results of the two examinations show that there were no less than eighty failures in 189 candidatures. We cannot but think that this goes to prove the inefficacy of the present system. It is all very well to maintain a high standard of education, but we have first to create the standard. Examinations will not do it, no matter how stiff they are. If the junior examination were a fair test of the work done by boys and girls, we would not find that it was too much for nearly half the candidates. If the matriculation examination were a fair test of the work done by more advanced students, we would not find such a marked decrease in the number of passes in the first two classes. The sooner the first of these examinations is modified and the second made merely an entrance examination the better will it be for the cause of true education. It may be noticed here that the female candidates for matriculation secured a far greater proportion of passes than the male. Out of twelve candidates ten passed, whilst the record for the opposite sex is seventeen passes out

of forty-nine candidatures. That some of these ladies proceed with their University course may be seen from the class-lists which we publish this morning. Miss Dornwell has achieved the distinction of being not only the first girl graduate of the Adelaide University but also the first B.Sc. This course is one of the most difficult, and the various things which Miss Dornwell now must know—as Mr. Mortimer Collins would say—"goodness knows." The lady in question has not only secured her degree, but she has gained it with high honours. We congratulate her on her success, and the University on having so soon in its history the opportunity of conferring a degree on a member of the gentler sex who is so well qualified to bear it with credit.

Register Dec^r 11th 1885

JUNIOR EXAMINATIONS. — The name of Alfred E. Muecke was accidentally omitted from our list of students who passed in the third class at the recent junior examinations of the Adelaide University. The subjects in which he passed were Latin, mathematics, and chemistry.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

The following is a list of the successful candidates at the late Junior and Matriculation Examinations, together with the schools (if any) from which they were sent up:—

MATRICULATION.

First Class (in order of merit).—G. A. Fischer, J. M. Solomon, F. V. Beyer, A. E. Magraith, A. E. Simpson, and R. W. Laughton, Prince Alfred College.

Second Class (in order of merit).—F. S. Butler, C. H. Barnes, W. A. Leitch, F. S. Hone, and N. J. C. Treleaven, Prince Alfred College; W. R. Cavenagh, St. Peter's Collegiate School; Jeannie M. C. Walker and Edith Liston, Advanced School for Girls; H. W. Crompton, Prince Alfred College; E. Giles, Mr. D'Arenberg's tuition; S. N. Wood, St. Peter's Collegiate School; W. A. Verco, Prince Alfred College.

Third Class.—A. H. Angel, P. Bollen, E. E. Cleland, J. D. Iliffe, and A. L. Tilly, Prince Alfred College; Sophie R. Bagot, Palmer-place School; Loui Benham, Marian L. Daniels, Mary K. Denny, Ethel M. Hay, Annie E. Millard, and Elsie A. Poole, Advanced School for Girls; R. F. Dempsey, Christian Brothers' College; H. O'H. Giles, E. P. Horn, and W. A. Magarey, Mr. D'Arenberg's tuition; A. E. D. Goodhart, A. N. Hopkins, W. A. C. Howell, and F. L. Stow, St. Peter's Collegiate School; Mary C. Hamilton, S. J. Mitchell, W. A. Moore, and A. E. Shepherd, private tuition.

JUNIOR EXAMINATION.

First Class (in order of merit).—F. J. Chapple, Prince Alfred College; W. J. Young, Whinham College; Annie L. V. Trehy, Advanced School for Girls; Kate I. Cross, Palmer-place School.

Second Class (in order of merit).—F. Lathlean, Prince Alfred College; Minna J. M. Rosman, Advanced School for Girls; J. B. Allen, Prince Alfred College; R. Ingleby, St. Peter's Collegiate School; J. H. Weinrich, Whinham College; T. H. Frewin, Prince Alfred College; E. G. Bee, Whinham College; E. W. Castine, Prince Alfred College; Jessie McL. Robertson, Advanced School for Girls; C. J. Tuckwell, Whinham College; W. Gurner and A. E. Cook, Prince Alfred College; J. G. Frost, Whinham College; and C. R. J. Glover, Prince Alfred College.

Third Class.—A. H. Aldersey, B. Basedow, H. W. Charlick, A. H. Clark, E. A. Farquhar, H. A. Hack, P. Heath, F. W. Kay, A. E. Muecke, H. W. Rischbieth, A. E. Stephens, T. C. Walker, and F. W. Wheatley, Prince Alfred College; W. P. Andrews, E. H. Beaney, P. Cruickshank, D. L. Doolette, J. O. Giles, R. A. Herbert, F. Shaw, H. Valentine, and F. M. Wilkinson, Whinham College; Lucy G. Cave, private tuition; J. Cleave, A. M. Cudmore, A. E. Gibbes, G. W. Halcomb, H. O. Irwin, J. L. T. Isbister, D. H. Lawrance, W. H. Paltridge, W. G. Wollaston, and F. A. Wyatt, St. Peter's Collegiate School; W. P. Cottrell, Norwood Model School; Kate M. Craigie, Miss Adamson's school; Jessie B. Dougall, Lena H. E. Graham, Victoria A. Mitton, and Mabel Shorney, Advanced School for Girls; W. Ferguson,

Jamestown Grammar School; F. L. Gratton and J. D. Jeffery, High School, Gilles-street; Ida Hill and Edith Williams, Hardwicke College; J. J. Leighton, J. J. Lynch, P. F. Shanahan, and C. W. Woods, Christian Brothers' College; Zoe E. C. Rosser, Mrs. Thornber's school; and W. L. Summers, Glenelg Grammar School.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—In connection with your sub-leader of to-day respecting the unusual number of failures at the junior and matriculation examinations, and the increase in the comparative number of the third-class passes, allow me to point out that the method of ranking in classes appears to vary from year to year, as the same subjects and credits which last year secured a first or second appear this year in the third class. Pondering over this fact, and struck at last with an idea that the names at the head of to-day's list were previously not unknown to fame, I searched through some back calendars, and found the name of George Alfred Fischer in the first-class of the matriculation examination of March, 1884; also that Judah Moss Solomon matriculated in December, 1883, and Franz Victor Beyer in December, 1884. These youths ought more properly to compete with undergraduates completing their first and second year than with genuine matriculation candidates, whom they have doubtless helped to relegate to the lower parts of the list. Should this practice of taking the same examination again and again become established, what is there to limit the repetitions? Year after year the same names might head the list, and at last we might have the touching spectacle of greybeards meeting at the old familiar table in the academic halls and murmuring, "How pleasant [these annual meetings are. Is this our thirty-ninth or fortieth matric.?"

I am, Sir, &c.,

A FRIEND OF EDUCATION.
