

Register Dec-12th 1885 ✓

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS. — We have been asked to publish the following corrections:—"In the class list of the ordinary examination for the degree of Bachelor of Music, first year, the name of Miss A. M. Whittell was erroneously placed in the third class. Miss Whittell's name should have appeared as fourth in the second class immediately after the name of Mr. Stephens. In the junior class list F. M. Wilkinson was put down as educated at Whinham College instead of at Prince Alfred College. Miss A. Jacob, a student not studying for a degree at the ordinary B.A. Examination in November for the second year, passed in English language and literature with credit.

Register Dec^r 12th 1885
Legislative Council ✓

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

The Hon. W. A. E. WEST-ERSKINE said the first Bill first had under consideration was for the better protection of young persons, and the last for the better protection of young oysters. It was solely with the view of assisting the young people that he adopted a course which might perhaps have been better dealt with by the University. An admirable letter had appeared in the public press that morning, calling attention to the recent University examinations. He did not know the writer of the communication, which was signed "A Friend of Education," and which included a list showing the result of the matriculation examinations, and the names of the schools at which the various young people who competed had been addentory. In this letter attention was called to the fact that at all events the names of three of the gentlemen who attained first-class honors, and who received his most sincere congratulation for their success, had previously taken similar positions at matriculation examinations. (The Hon. Mr. Salom—"No.") His authority was the letter, but of his own knowledge he was unable to say whether the statement was correct or not; he certainly found, however, that names in the examination calendar appeared again in this morning's paper. (The Hon. M. Salom—"Not in the same class.") Yes, in the same class. It was quite clear that a considerable amount of public funds—he wished the sum was larger—was granted to the University as an incentive to the young people to study. But nothing would act more prejudicially or tend to discourage the young people more seriously than this course of action, and it should be no longer allowed. He would not object to those who only passed in the second or third classes being allowed to again compete for the purpose of passing in the highest class, but it was most discouraging to the young boys to have to contest with those who had previously passed first for perhaps one, two, or three years—there was no limit at present. It was important that any one who passed in the first class should withdraw from the examinations. If those gentlemen, who had previously occupied first positions had not competed this year the presumption was that three of those who had passed in the second-class would have been placed in the first. It was one of the finest things in life to obtain scholastic honors, and Parliament should encourage the young people to work for them.

The Hon. A. HAY said the Hon. Mr. West-Erskine from his long connection with the University ought to know something about the present examination arrangement, which if defective ought to be altered. It was desirable that two or three persons should not accumulate the scholastic honors to the discouragement of the young people. There was another matter he would like to call the Council's attention to, and that was with regard to the Indian and Colonial Exhibition proposed to be held in London next year. What he desired was that a plan of Port Adelaide should be hung up in a prominent position at the exhibition, showing the facilities, both natural and artificial, for shipping at that place, and affording people an opportunity of forming opinions as to the course that should be adopted for the improvement of Port Adelaide. This was specially important because with the Victorian railway concluded next year foreigners should be afforded facilities for knowing the trade of South Australia. As one who had lived in South Australia for a number of years, he could testify to the improvements that had been effected at Port Adelaide, which at the present time was one of the best colonial ports. Some time ago he had tried to obtain plans of Port Adelaide so that hon. members could see for themselves the nature of the work that had been carried out there, but the Council had objected to his proposal on the grounds that it would incur an undesirable expense.

The PRESIDENT considered that the Hon. Mr. Hay should confine himself to the subject brought forward by the Hon. Mr. Scott.

The Hon. A. HAY was under the impression that the motion allowed hon. members to speak on various subjects. He, however, only desired to point out the necessity for the shipping facilities of Port Adelaide being shown at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition.

The Hon. Mr. SALOM, in reply to the Hon. Mr. WEST-ERSKINE, admitted the undesirableness of persons who had passed in the first class of matriculation examination competing again, but was of opinion that in two instances at least it would be found those that had been successful in the first-class this year had occupied much lower positions at previous examinations. It was only right that those who did not take the highest honor at one examination should be allowed to compete until they did, (Hear, hear.) If a person were continually passing in the first-class it would be very discouraging to the young people.

The Hon. W. A. E. WEST-ERSKINE agreed with the Hon. Mr. Salom that scholars should be allowed to compete whether they had passed in the second or third class or not until they obtained the highest honors, what he objected to was anyone monopolising the first position. He asked leave to withdraw his motion.

Leave having been given the motion was withdrawn.

Register December 12th 1885.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I quite agree with your correspondent —“A Friend of Education”—when he condemns the practice of head-masters sending up boys for the matric. who have passed that examination creditably before, with a view to the advertising of their schools. But he is wrong when he infers that the fact of their passing first class relegates others to the second class who would have passed first. The standard of the first class is fixed, and the fact that there are some very good students in it does not prevent other passable ones from coming in, if they have attained the required standard. Again, your correspondent asserts that the method of ranking in classes varies from year to year, because certain subjects and credits appear this time in the third class which last time appeared in the first. But he forgets that there are compulsory subjects, and that if the candidate does badly in these they act as a bar to his being placed well; also that there are two ways of passing in a subject—just scraping through and passing well, if not with credit. Prince Alfred College seems to be the only offender with regard to the sending up of boys who have passed well before, so as to secure good places for the College.

I am, Sir, &c.,

W. ROBERTSON.

Kent Town, December 11.

Register Decr 12th 1885

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—We the undersigned have noticed that your correspondent “A Friend of Education” has objected to our having presented ourselves for matriculation a second time. The reason for taking this step (in two cases out of the three) was that we intend studying for our M.B. course, and as a certificate of having passed the matriculation in Greek is necessary for this, and the University not allowing us to take up Greek only, we were obliged to sit for the whole examination. Again, if we desire to secure a better position on the class lists than we had on the previous occasion, and a certificate of attainments in further branches and higher proficiency, which may be of considerable service to us in the future, there is nothing in the regulations to prevent us, and nothing objectionable surely in trying for it.

We are, Sir, &c.,

GEORGE ALFRED FISCHER,

JUDAH MOSS SOLOMON,

FRANZ VICTOR BEYER.

Prince Alfred College, December 11.

Register December 14th 1885

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Kindly allow me space in your columns for a few remarks with regard to the matriculation examination, the results of which have astonished and puzzled many besides myself and present to the public a problem impossible to solve without the efficient aid of the Professorial Board, and the problem in question is—Why are not candidates who obtain credits in every optional subject taken up by them placed in the first class? I was astonished to find on scanning the list of the successful candidates that the first, second, and third in the first class had previously passed the examination in March, 1884, December, 1883, and December, 1884, respectively, and my wonder increased as I discovered that no female competitor had obtained a first-class, and it was not until I had got half through the second that my eye lighted on a lady's name. Judge of my surprise, then, when I found that two young ladies who were placed in this mediocre position had gained credits on all optional subjects (4) taken up by them; surely it was impossible for them to obtain better results? And might they not reasonably expect a first class? But not so; seemingly their presumption was absurd, and having worked the whole year buoyed up by hope and bringing the goal nearer day by day through their own exertions, having succeeded in gaining credits in German, English, botany, and physiology, they must quietly retire "like Patience on a monument" into the second class without even a glimmering perception of the cause; verily, I say, is this justice? They are not the only seemingly wronged ones; there are girls in the third class with three and two credits, while above them are boys in the second with one and none. Many guesses have been hazarded as to the possible reason of this. One facetious youth thought that owing to the bad times money was needed for the University, and therefore candidates were failed or placed low in order that they might present themselves for examination again, and thus pay a double fee. It is needless to state that this idea is erroneous, but the prevailing opinion seems to be that girls cannot expect such high passes as boys because they do not, as a rule, take up Latin or Greek.