

Register 8th Oct. 1902.

UNIVERSITY PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS.
Mr. R. J. M. Lucas (secretary to the Public Examinations Board) writes:—In the report supplied you of the passes for the primary examination in South Australia the statement was made that the number of certificates granted in South Australia is 432. This is really the total number of certificates for the whole examination. The number of certificates granted for South Australia should be 327.

Register 14th Oct. 1902.

THE SCHOOL YEAR.

To the Editor.
Sir—The resolution of the Collegiate Schools' Association, if carried into effect, is a step in a retrograde direction, and will prove unacceptable to the great majority of parents. The fact that the system is in vogue in England is no reason why it should be adopted here, where climatic and other conditions are so vastly different. To keep a boy's or girl's mental activities on the stretch for 14 weeks without any lengthened break is a piece of crass folly, and becomes positive cruelty in the severity of our summer weather. It is difficult to see what good object is achieved by the innovation. It gives no more time at school, because the loss of a day or two at the beginning or end of one term affects practically only a comparatively small section (the boarders), and is really neither here nor there. The point that "the house will be turned upside down by the young scapegraces only thrice instead of four times a year" is not worth serious attention. Again, it is doubtful whether paterfamilias will welcome the invitation to pay the school fees in three larger instead of four smaller sums. In the big colleges and some secondary schools the fees for tuition, books, &c., average in the higher forms (say) £16 a year. In these times it is more convenient to make four payments of £4 rather than three payments of £5 6/8. In the case of boarders the stress will be felt more, as the annual charges amount to from £60 to £70. As for the argument that the change will be more convenient in respect to the University examinations, it must be borne in mind that the main aim and aspirations of a school should be based on something higher than a mere consideration for University examinations.
I am, Sir, &c.,
TEACHER.

To the Editor.
Sir—With my sisters and brothers and cousins I was educated in England at schools where three terms per annum were in vogue, but each term was never more than 13 weeks in length, and often 12 weeks. In South Australia, the hottest climate inhabited by the English race, I fail to see how our children are to adequately study for 14 weeks in succession. Furthermore, the Easter holidays must break into a full week, as they do now. In England the longer holidays are often a great benefit to children educationally, because trips to the Continent are so cheap and so frequent, and the British Isles teem with literary and historical associations. In Australia no alternative educational advantages are forthcoming for the longer holidays which will probably follow in the wake of the new system. Parents, too, are accustomed to quarterly payments in so many business dealings that they will not find any other financial arrangement equally convenient. The last primary list from our University shows that our free schools are doing work up to the primary standard; hence, as few parents desire more, and some not so much, this fresh move will probably throw still more educational expense on the public. Parents should have been consulted before such a drastic decision was passed.
I am, Sir, &c.,
PARENT.

Register 18th Oct. 1902.

"The Empire Review" contains the following among other references to Professor Salmond's new work on "Jurisprudence, or The Theory of the Law":—
Several years ago Professor Salmond gathered into a small volume some essays on main points of jurisprudence and legal history, which had attracted attention in the pages of the Law Quarterly Review. Soon afterwards he issued a similar volume treating concisely "The First Principles of Jurisprudence." Both works were characterized by a refreshing independence of handling, and tinged—especially the latter—with a certain piquant dogmatism, partly the consequence of brevity, partly also the natural manifestation of intellectual force. Since these days Professor Salmond has settled down in the chair of law at Adelaide, and concentrated his energies upon the work of his chair. The first literary result in independent form now appears in a full treatment of jurisprudence, occupying a thick volume of well on to 700 octavo pages, and superseding his earlier work. The references usefully appended to the various chapters indicate wide familiarity with the best authorities on every branch of the subject. But the independent spirit, though mellowed in expression, is still here in force, happily preventing the author from being controlled by the great names among his predecessors. Every theory and argument is tested on its intrinsic qualities, and admitted or rejected on grounds distinctly specified; there is no swearing in verba magistri. The style is lucid and vigorous. For students the book constitutes a discipline of the first order, as well as an interesting and instructive guide. No writer since Austin has reviewed the subject with more incisive keenness or with ampler equipment of knowledge. The volume will promptly find its way into all classrooms where jurisprudence is discussed with living force, in all due respect for authoritative names, but in freedom from the trammels that such names are somewhat apt to impose. . . . But the essential point is that he reviews the whole ground with ample knowledge and keen discrimination, and whenever the reader may chance to find his opinions crossed or disturbed, gives the clearest reasons for his own position. The work is a powerful and stimulating contribution to the literature of the subject.

Register 14th Oct. 1902.

SHAKSPEARE AS PREACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

At the University on Monday evening the Rev. John Reid, M.A., completed his series of extension lectures on "The four great tragedies of Shakspeare"—"Hamlet," "Othello," "Macbeth," and "King Lear." The final lecture—a natural peroration after the deliberate study of the previous subjects—was a masterpiece of brilliant reasoning and eloquence, and Mr. Reid was accorded an expression of thanks such as must have led him to the conclusion that he was appreciated by the large audiences who have consistently attended the course. In a preliminary explanation of points and questions raised upon the previous lecture by correspondents, the lecturer was led into an able defence of Shakspeare's as against Bacon's claims to the authorship of the Grand Tragedies.
As a preacher of righteousness, the lecturer said, no difficulty could be experienced in establishing Shakspeare's claims. In an elaboration of such points as the moral characteristics of the tragedies, in his faithful treatment of "fate and chance, and change in human life," the free choice of a variety of themes, and the doctrine of the tragedies regarding man's life and destiny, only one conclusion could remain—that Shakspeare's works indeed made men wiser, nobler, and happier, in that they fired to ideals of the best and greatest in human life. Mr. Reid's second heading led to a delightful study, the more charming because of its comparative originality of "Shakspeare's own opinions and beliefs." In spite of the dramatist's necessary self-effacement, occasions were not rare when glimpses of the man's wonderful though intensely human character were revealed. His themes were selected because they were most in accord with the sentiments of his own moral nature, disclosing an insight gained only by a victorious fight in the individual battle of life. Even in the classification of his works a student should discern the story of the dramatist's own life. The series could be divided under the headings Comedies, Histories, Tragedies, and Romances. In his earlier career the man was wont to take his teaching for granted; no thought of serious examination or individual action. The second period revealed the days of sceptical searchings and beliefs. The third amply proven by a study of the plays credited to that stage in his life, displayed the assured knowledge of experience. The third portion of the lecture was devoted to an analysis of Shakspeare and the Theatre, in which Mr. Reid from his own observations was convinced that for every one who benefited by witnessing a production of Shakspeare there were 50 who suffered from a comparison of the plays at the author's own hands, and the portrayal of the characters by human employment. Shakspeare invariably suffered by being acted, and his ideals were almost always degraded. In witnessing an impersonation of the characters one naturally retained an impression of the impersonator rather than of the character portrayed. At the conclusion of the lecture, when Mr. Reid was accorded an ovation, he intimated that a course of lectures on Shakspeare's romances would shortly be initiated.

Reg. 21st Oct. 1902.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The concert given at the Elder Conservatorium on Monday evening by the ladies' part-singing and orchestral classes—which may almost be regarded as Miss Guli Hack's annual concert—was noteworthy from the fact that it served to introduce to Adelaide four works, each a worthy specimen of leading modern schools of composition. These were Rheinberger's "Mass, Op. 155," one of the later works of the gifted German who died scarcely 12 months ago; Grieg's weird and original conception, "At the cloister gate," Op. 20; Saint-Saens's "La Nuit," Op. 114, an equally original writing, though widely different in style and treatment; and Hamerick's "Harvest dance," Op. 37; a merry little piece containing several highly effective passages. The musical public of this city certainly owe a debt of gratitude to Miss Hack for enabling them to make the acquaintance of so much excellent music, and the general performance of her choral class, which has largely augmented its numbers since we last heard it, bore eloquent evidence to the long and painstaking preparation that must have been made for the concert. A good opening was made with Rheinberger's mass, which served to display the fine tone quality of the chorus to advantage; and the precision with which the various parts took up their leads calls for hearty praise. The pianissimo passages in the credo were sung with delightful evenness, and a perfect balance of the parts, and the expression and climax in the sanctus were notably successful. The mass was accompanied at the organ by Mr. A. H. Otto, who manifested taste and judgment in his work. Grieg's "At the cloister gate," which is scored for full orchestra, with harp and organ, is in the main a long duet for soprano and contralto, ending with a brief chorus. The two soloists were Miss Martha Bruggemann and Miss Minna Gebhardt, both of whom sang with intelligence and feeling, and, taking into account the difficulties of the score, may be praised for their efforts. The chorus did their work well, and secured a powerful and well-sustained climax, which made an appropriate finish to the piece. The most important work, however, in this number falls to the orchestra, who have a long introduction and an interlude of fair importance, while the accompaniment is a tone picture throughout. In this, except for an occasional faulty intonation, the students were uniformly successful, and their efforts proved highly pleasing. In Saint-Saens's "La nuit" the band again had much to do, and did it well; while the long and difficult soprano solo was sung with refinement and admirable voice management by Miss Katie Joyce, whose trills call for special praise. The last item, a "Harvest dance," by Ager Hamerick, a Danish writer, who was born at Copenhagen in 1843, and has since 1871 occupied an important position as musical director of the Peabody Institute, Baltimore, proved a spirited and effective composition. It was sung quite con amore by the ladies, and all its points of interest were fully brought out under Miss Hack's able interpretation. Throughout the concert Miss Hack manifested an excellent control over her vocal and instrumental forces, and conducted with decision and judgment. Mr. A. H. Otto played the organ in the Grieg and Saint-Saens's selections, and showed discrimination in his selection of registers.

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PROFESSOR SALMOND'S NEW WORK.

In The Empire Review appears an article by Professor Murison, LL.D., Professor of Roman Law and Jurisprudence in University College, London, relating to Professor Salmond's new work on "Jurisprudence, or the Theory of the Law":—The professor writes:—Several years ago Professor Salmond gathered into a small volume some essays on main points of jurisprudence and legal history which had attracted attention in the pages of the Law Quarterly Review. Soon afterwards he issued a similar volume treating concisely "The First Principles of Jurisprudence." Both works were characterized by a refreshing independence of handling and tinged—especially the latter—with a certain piquant dogmatism, partly the consequence of brevity, partly also the natural manifestation of intellectual force. Since these days Professor Salmond has settled down in the chair of law at Adelaide, and concentrated his energies upon the work of his chair. The first literary result in independent form now appears in a full treatment of jurisprudence, occupying a thick volume of well on to 700 octavo pages, and superseding his earlier work. The references usefully appended to the various chapters indicate wide familiarity with the best authorities on every branch of the subject. But the independent spirit, though mellowed in expression, is still here in force, happily preventing the author from being controlled by the great names among his predecessors. Every theory and argument is tested on its intrinsic qualities, and admitted or rejected on grounds distinctly specified; there is no swearing in verba magistri. The style is lucid and vigorous. For students the book constitutes a discipline of the first order, as well as an interesting and instructive guide. No writer since Austin has reviewed the subject with more incisive keenness or with ampler equipment of knowledge. The volume will promptly find its way into all classrooms where jurisprudence is discussed with living force, in all due respect for authoritative names, but in freedom from the trammels that such names are somewhat apt to impose. . . . But the essential point is that he reviews the whole ground with ample knowledge and keen discrimination, and whenever the reader may chance to find his opinions crossed or disturbed, gives the clearest reasons for his own position. The work is a powerful and stimulating contribution to the literature of the subject.

Register 23rd October 1902.

The Melbourne University Council were on the horns of a dilemma at their meeting on Monday. Professor Petersen, of the Conservatorium of Music, wrote protesting against a resolution of the finance committee which required that students whose fees for the term had not been paid should be denied further instruction until the obligation had been discharged. From the subsequent discussion it appeared that the professor's very direct reference to the resolution as being "ill-considered, ill-advised, and ultra vires," had some foundation, for the statute bearing upon the point practically allows students of the Conservatorium to run right up to examination time before requiring them to pay their fees. It was alleged by Dr. MacFarland, however, that, despite an arrangement entered into at the beginning of this year, the fees had been allowed to fall into arrears, and as Chairman of the finance committee, charged with the unpleasant duty of steering the University clear of shoals, he, with the approval of his colleagues, had determined that the finances of the Conservatorium should be administered on stricter business lines. With this view the council entirely agreed, but the "fool of a statute" rendered them powerless to follow the finance committee, whose recommendation, if carried out instantly, would block 10 or 12 students from receiving instruction during the current week. A suggestion to accept guarantees for the amounts due was made. The Chancellor (Sir John Madden) could not see how a twopenny-halfpenny guarantee would solve the difficulty. "Then refuse to instruct students who are in arrears," demanded a member. "If you do that," replied Sir John Madden, holding up the statute, "they will, if they are the breed of their sires, issue a mandamus against us." In such hopeless circumstances there was nothing for it but to accept a motion. "That the students be admitted to the lectures," and then it is understood that when they go up for examination they will not be admitted to that examination "unless full fee for the year shall have been paid."