

agreement has expired, but the sale of board music suggests that that institution's receipts this year will not be lower than last year's, and if—as the teachers claim will be the case—the Board and Trinity College students prove to be more numerous this year than hitherto it is fair to assume that the Conservatorium will suffer correspondingly. The Conservatorium term will begin next month, and the matter is of such great importance to both that institution and the teachers and students that the Board of Musical Studies would be acting wisely if it endeavored to arrange for the amicable settlement of the dispute by means of a conference or something of the kind. Surely South Australia is capable of carrying out its own examinations without outside help. It would be a disgrace to the State if it were not.

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JUNIORS AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

In his comments on the answers to the English history paper at the last junior examination at the University of Adelaide, the examiner remarks that "those candidates who did not know what was meant by the Provisions of Oxford were not lucky in their guesses; some guessed wheat, and one said 'Provisions of Oxford was food imported from Germany and sold in Oxford.'" On another subject the examiner writes:—Though the causes of enmity between England and Spain were generally known, considerably more than half the candidates could not sketch the route of the Armada. In a question of this kind the same accuracy of detail that would be expected in a geography paper is not asked for, but surely history can only be taught most superficially and inaccurately when the geography necessary for understanding it is omitted. It was most disappointing to read answer after answer in which the first part was well done, and sometimes even the route taken by the Armada accurately described, but in which the map that followed showed that the candidate had not the least idea of the relative position of Spain and England or of the course taken by the Armada. Spain was sometimes to the north-east of England, sometimes to the north-west; once it was where Iceland should be, and once it was an island. The Armada sometimes began and ended its voyage in mid-ocean; in one paper it started from Plymouth and sailed to South America, in another it sailed from Edinburgh to the Hebrides; one candidate sent it round Africa, another sent it through the Mediterranean, and across Europe; no fewer than three candidates made it circumnavigate the world, one of these supposing it to pass from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, and another making it call at Tamatave and Teneriffe, both

of which were placed on the west coast of South America. The examiner noticed that the maps sent in by Western Australian candidates were not only more accurate, but were much more neatly drawn than those sent in from this State, which were often very slovenly.

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MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.
All Teachers of Music are invited to attend a MEETING of the above Association in the Y.M.C.A. Parlor on SATURDAY, February 9, at 7.30 p.m. Business—To elect Officers, &c., and to discuss the University scheme of examinations.
E. E. MITCHELL, Hon. Secretary pro tem.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

We have received the manual of the Public Examinations Board of the University of Adelaide for the year 1907. The publication includes the usual regulations and syllabus for the year 1907, and the report and the examination papers for the year 1906. A new feature is that on page 7 intending candidates for the Junior and Senior Examinations this year are notified that no entry cards will be forwarded for these examinations, but lists of the names of candidates and their distinctive numbers will be posted at the University at least a week before the date fixed for the beginning of the examination. Candidates sitting at local centres will obtain their distinctive numbers from the local secretary. Then follow time-tables for these examinations, giving the days and the hours when the different subjects will be set. Another new feature is the Senior Commercial Examination. This is a new test for students, and is an advance on the lines of the Junior Commercial Examination. Candidates must satisfy the board of their knowledge in commercial arithmetic and book-keeping and in commercial history and geography, and must also pass in two other subjects from the list which is published in the manual. A review of the examiners' reports is given in another column.

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AFTERMATH OF EXAMINATIONS.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINERS ON CANDIDATES.

SOME MORE HOWLERS.

Once again the time has come round for the publication of the manual of the Public Examinations Board of the University of Adelaide, and once again the reports of the examiners on the candidates' papers of 1906 are reading—at any rate in places—fit for Punch. The schoolboy—and not so often the schoolgirl—says the most excruciatingly funny things sometimes, and apparently the stern and learned atmosphere of the examination hall supplies just the conditions necessary for the performance of the historical and grammatical gymnastics that are always fresh and yet always the same. The reports of the University examiners in their annual bluebook should help to better knowledge both candidates who pass examinations and those who are ploughed; but they know by this time that it is not the candidates and the candidates' teachers alone who look with eagerness for these reports. The general public, too, has a watchful eye for them. It is the "howlers"—a word that has almost passed the commas stage and been admitted to the English language—that they like.

—The Primary Examination.—
In the primary examination this year the chaff of the candidates' answers is nearly as good as the wheat. In the English paper there was not much room for the perpetration of remarkable atrocities, though the examiners suggest that the usual annual and youthful murder of our noble tongue has gone on in the well-known way. "Some candidates thought to hedge by giving two means to stationary, the right and the wrong one; they were marked for the wrong one." The examiners also point out that the use of & for and is as prominent as ever in papers, and just as objectionable. Then come the history papers—a rich harvest of merry jests. Candidates wrote glibly about north-west and north-east passages with a glorious ignorance. "Sir Francis Drake discovered a north-west passage between America and Siberia, he sailed through this passage and around the world." The old perplexity about velleinage and the feudal system flourishes as the green

bay tree. "Velleinage first started in the reign of William I. in the feudalism. They were treated as slaves up to the year 1832, when the Reform Bill was passed, and abolition of slavery was stopped." It reminds one of the answer of the boy who said:—"The fleur-de-lis was another name for the feudal system, which barons used to oppress the people with." One item set before candidates was, "Write notes on William Pitt, Earl of Chatham." Some said he took and gave bribes, but that he "did so for the good of England." Another reply asserted that he was a great Methodist preacher. Many set on record that he was kind to his wife and little children. "William Pitt was a kind-hearted gentleman. If there was anything on at any time he was nearly always picked first to be in it." "It was William Pitt that bucked up the middle classes." Of this last expression the examiners said the author had good history, but that his slang, though succinct, was still slang. Another candidate recorded:—"William the Conqueror signed the Magna Carta and the Declaration of Right willingly. He also signed the Declaration of Indulgence." The opinion that "the Witenagemote was not well attended because the poorer people were unable to pay their railway fares" sounds almost as if it was intentionally distorted history. One Alfred Jingle wrote of velleinage:—"Men became brutish—not read—write—no paper—if they could—very hard—cruel masters—these men treated worse than animals."

—Some Junior Papers.—

The examination one grade higher was also prolific of howlers. In the English paper candidates were asked to write the character of Rebecca in "Ivanhoe." Many of them were verbose about her dress and her adventures, but quite neglected the question set. The examiners report that the spelling was bad. Some of the history papers—surely we can understand now the source of Becket's Comic History of England!—were delightful. One boy wrote:—"The Provisions of Oxford was food imported from Germany and sold in Oxford." One of the simplest history questions set was:—"3. Why was there enmity between England and Spain in the reign of Elizabeth? Show by a sketch map the route taken by the Spanish Armada." The answers were too good in many cases to be missed. This is what the examiners say:—

Question 3 was badly answered. Though the causes of enmity between England and Spain were generally known, considerably more than half the candidates could not sketch the route of the Armada. In a question of this kind the same accuracy of detail that would be expected in a geography paper is not asked for, but surely history can only be taught most superficially and inaccurately when the geography necessary for understanding it is omitted. It was most disappointing to read answer after answer in which the first part was well done, and sometimes even the route taken by the Armada accurately described, but in which the map that followed showed that the candidate had not the least idea of the relative position of Spain and England or of the course taken by the Armada. Spain was sometimes to the north-east of England, sometimes to the north-west; once it was where Iceland should be, and once it was an island. The Armada sometimes began and ended its voyage in mid-ocean; in one paper it started from Plymouth and sailed to South America, in another it sailed from Edinburgh to the Hebrides; one candidate sent it round Africa, another sent it through the Mediterranean and across Europe; no less than three candidates made it circumnavigate the world, one of these supposing it to pass from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, and another making it call at Tamatave and Teneriffe, both of which were placed on the west coast of South America.

Some of the essays to answer the question—"What was the First Reform Act, and why was it necessary?"—recalled the old adage, "So many men, so many minds." Some said it was a Home Rule Bill for Ireland. Some repealed the corn laws with it. Some blamed Charles I. for it; some Henry VIII. Even in the senior and higher public history examinations a few of the primary and junior candidates of past years failed to throw off entirely their old characteristics. One senior candidate began his paper with the remark:—"I shall not take events in the order of sequence." Another wrote a fair account of the Civil War, yet mentioned no battle by name, but at the end of the answer he said, "The battles spoken of above were—" and then followed a correct list. Of the higher examination the report reads:—

There is still the vain attempt to hide lack of knowledge by much verbiage. "Sir Robert Peel was a man of sterling worth, having always at heart the interests of his country and the good of the masses. His projects were not always approved of nor his actions praised, but if success did not favour him in all things he was nevertheless an upright man, well intentioned, and honourable." These are the opening lines of an answer which rambled on in the same fashion for two pages, and only gave the solitary fact that policemen were called peeler after Sir Robert Peel; it is, of course, impossible to give marks for that kind of work. Another candidate wrote at some length on the war against Napoleon in Spain without mentioning a single battle.