

ad. 12.11.19.

Rey. 10.11.19.

plication, that we are using the park lands for the very use they were intended for—recreation; and we are undertaking to improve and develop the part set apart for us so as to make that recreation more beneficial and health-giving for those who wish to partake. To say that outsiders are excluded from the 'Varsity Oval shows a lack of knowledge of the facts. I have seen strangers practicing hurling the javelin and putting the weight on the oval; and that when a cricket match was in progress. Such sports are very injurious to the state of the oval as they cut up the grass so much; yet not a word was said to these men. They wanted their sport, and we certainly were not going to stop them. I beg, therefore, that all men who wish the community well, and who wish to see the park lands used in the way that they should be used, will exercise their vote in the interests of the students of the Varsity, and the S.A.L.T.A., and so in the interests of the promotion of clean and manly sport. What made the diggers the fighters they were—football and cricket, or two up.—A STUDENT AND A SPORT.

Sir—I have perused the various paragraphs and letters in opposition to granting the lease, and have failed to note any opponents of the scheme having the decency to stress the fact that the Tennis Association is surrendering six acres on the west, and accepting in lieu thereof 3 1/2 acres on the north.—VERBUM SAP.

Sir.—It is earnestly to be hoped that the ratepayers will rise to the occasion, honour their trust, and enter their protest against any further attempt to filch for private purposes—our great common inheritance in the park lands. At the ratepayers meeting last week there was much to be regretted in the tone on the filching side; and one was appalled at some of the interjections, and the ignorance of economic history in regard to the gradual enclosure of common lands elsewhere, and its inevitable result. In reference to our speaker's plea for the rights of posterity, a young man near to me—presumably a university undergraduate—remarked:—"Why, he is thinking of the next generation!"—which caused one to wonder where would have been the claim of this young man and his fellows to-day, had not somebody in the past guarded the position for him! When the park lands charter was read by an ex-President of the Park Lands Preservation League, who stressed the fact that the word "public" in regard to their use was repeated many times, and the word "private" never, the filching side Hun-like, seemed to regard it as a mere scrap of paper! One cannot but reflect on the flaws in education which could culminate such a faulty view of ethical stand-

ards. Altogether, the impression made, was one of selfishness and limited vision, in some of those to whom the community naturally looks to "carry on" the fine work and traditions bequeathed us by Col. Light.—RATEPAVER

### EXAMINATIONS.

As surely as November signifies to the sporting fraternity the Melbourne Cup and its attendant festivities, to as many more—teachers and candidates, and those who, "like gods together, careless of mankind" set the papers, and the lesser minions, the supervisors or "bulldogs"—November inaugurates the time of examinations. In this month the University of Adelaide conducts degree examinations in five faculties; and the Public Examinations Board in the junior, senior, and higher public, and the commercial examinations, in Adelaide, and at 37 local centres throughout the State, tests the capabilities of more than 2,000 candidates in a score of literary, mathematical, scientific, and commercial subjects, while 17 scholarships and three Tennyson medals are awarded to candidates who distinguish themselves in various ways. It is a time of mind-searching and heart-burning, of triumphs and of tribulations, when many of those who are weighed in the balances are found wanting. On the whole, allowing for the defects of a wholesale system, and for the modicum of ill-chance or of luck which attends all tests, the result is a survival of the fittest. Although the real proof of efficiency is in the work done from day to day in the classrooms of school or University, the examinations, as they set the seal of an outside body of opinion upon the work, are of great importance to student and teacher alike.

Educationalists rightly deprecate the conduct of school work solely with a view to the examinations at the end

of the year. Such a course is contrary to the pure and disinterested ideal of education, and is bound to act detrimentally on teacher and scholar; but, even intrinsically, examinations have real value. Human nature requires stimulus, direction, aim, a definite object. These in some measure examinations provide. The most studious admit their importance as incentives to definite concentration work. The rigid standard, definite times, and compulsory subjects are in themselves substantial discipline. Extrinsicly the worth of examinations lies in the fact of their being the only universal and recognised test of the knowledge and training upon which gradations of education—such, for example, as entrance to the University and to the organized professions—depend; or by which generally speaking the capabilities of aspirants to all kinds of mental attainment can be estimated. The improvement of the present system of public examinations, by which their results might possess more real weight as criteria of genuine achievement, lies along the line of increased co-ordination between class work done during the school year and the examinations at the end of it. Senior and higher public candidates in Botany, for instance, are required to submit notebooks in which have been recorded results and explanations of the experiments and observations, duly vouched for by the teacher, made by them during the year. Marks are not awarded for these; but, if the notebook be not of sufficient merit, the candidate will not be allowed to pass. Some guarantee of practical achievement on the literary side, such as a collection of essays signed by the teacher and handed in with the examination papers

for inspection at the close of the year, might help to remove one of the anomalies of present-day education—the failure to attain even grammatical correctness in expression, much less clarity and grace of style. In the crowded curricula of most schools this fundamental necessity of education is a neglected art. The requirement by the Public Examinations Board of an English essay, apart from the English literature paper, in the higher public examination, is a step in the right direction.

A stumbling block to many students who aspire to take the University arts course is the frequent confusion between the five optional subjects which constitute a pass in the senior public examination, and the matriculation which is required for entrance to the University, and which has four compulsory subjects—arithmetic and algebra, geometry, Latin, and Greek. Hence many students, with perhaps five or six senior subjects to their credit, find themselves with one or more of these compulsories to be cleared off at the termination of a hardworked undergraduate course, before they can qualify for a degree. Especially does this mistake seem traceable to some of the smaller schools, where an ambition to secure a high pass list in candidates' "favourite" subjects may be permitted to outweigh the interests of the students who intend to enter the University, and who, when they reach senior public standard, should be concentrating mainly upon the subjects which constitute matriculation. The Higher Public Examination offers additional scope for advanced school work when the compulsory subjects have been completed. Many a graduate of the University can testify to the irritating drawback of matriculation subjects which have had to be made up at the end of a hard year, or else which, haunting the summer vacation, must be faced in the March or February "post-mortem." Especially does this apply to Greek. While Greek is a compulsory subject for matriculation, every school which advertises preparation for the public examinations should provide adequate tuition in it. The comic aftermath of the examinations is seen in some of the reports in that little "Manual of the Public Examinations Board," in which (amid much helpful advice and criticism which might well be pondered by teachers and candidates), the choicest of the season's "howlers" appear. They are the gems in the cast-off matter of this system of evolution, in which the fit survive, but in which many a gallant bid for success, is made by the unfit such as the candidate who wrote—"Perhaps the greatest cause of the Reformation was that Henry had married one of Luther's relations," or the hopeful historians who among them, placed Vienna in every country in Europe, or the essayist who, with "the King of Spain's aunts" gave an air of homeliness to those ancient duennas of the Spanish succession.

ad. 12.11.19.

### RETURNED SOLDIERS AS RHODES SCHOLARS.

FREE PASSAGES TO ENGLAND.  
Melbourne, November 11.  
The Repatriation Commission has decided that any returned soldier who receives a Rhodes scholarship shall be entitled on application, and without regard to circumstance or position, to receive a free passage to England on the same terms as are provided in the case of other classes of free passages.

In commenting on the establishment in Melbourne of a "Rupert Brooke" prize in literature, the "Age" remarks that probably the best volume of war poetry that Australia has yet produced—the poems of Leon Gellert—was "discovered" by means of a similar prize offered by the University of Adelaide.

D. H. 12.11.19.

The complete democratising of Australian universities is a task before the Labor movement—a task as important and urgent as any yet embodied in the fighting platforms. The higher education from being an exclusive privilege of the rich, must be made accessible to the sons and daughters of all citizens. There must be no combine or trust in human knowledge throughout free Australia.—"The Hermit," in Melbourne "Socialist"

D. H. 15.11.19.

### THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS APPROACHING.

Tuesday next will be the commencing day of some of the most important examinations held annually in this State. They are not for degrees, but comprise the general education and commercial examinations, namely, Junior, Senior, Higher, Angus, Engineering, Exhibition, Junior Commercial, and Senior Commercial. Of those the most important is the Higher Examination, because on it is based 12 Government bursaries, carrying a University education with them. Of the 12 bursaries four are for intending medical students. On the others are based the education exhibitions. These examinations will effect no fewer than 2460 students, and Mr. Lucas, secretary to the Examination Board, estimates that 13,000 papers will be needed. The examinations are widespread, there being many country centres, where committees are formed from the people. These centres extend from Farina, in the north, to Mount Gambier, in the south, and from Fowler Bay, in the west, to Renmark, in the east. This year 410 country candidates will sit. Usually the examinations are held in the Exhibition Hall, but owing to that place being used as an influenza hospital the authorities were obliged to hire the Unley and Norwood Town Halls. In the latter hall arrangements have been made for 1150 candidates, and 900 at Unley. To carry out the examinations a staff of 25 supervisors has been engaged.

ad. 21.11.19.

Mr. Donald Kerr, M.M., who took his LL.B. degree at the Adelaide University in 1914, has gained the distinction of Doctor of Laws. The thesis presented by him as a candidate for the honor was on "The Judicial Interpretation of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia." The work has been approved by the examiners, and he has been posted at the University as a Doctor of Laws. He is the third graduate to obtain the LL.D. degree at the Adelaide University, the other two being Dr. F. L. Stow, now Crown Solicitor of Western Australia, and Dr. T. J. Browne, of the firm of Symon, Browne, Symon & Povey. There are other gentlemen in Adelaide who have won the corresponding degree at English Universities. Dr. Kerr was born at Knightsbridge, and is a son of the late Rev. Donald Kerr, M.A., who was well-known as a clergyman of the Church of England and as a school master. This young solicitor was educated at the Glenelg Grammar School, the Pulteney-street School, and St. Peter's College. He had a brilliant scholastic career, and gained the McCulloch History Scholarship. He began his articles with the late Mr. W. H. Benham, of Kapunda, but transferred to Mr. William Pope. In 1914 he graduated LL.B., with the Stow prize, and was admitted to the bar the same year. In 1915 he enlisted for active service, and went to Egypt and France. It was while in France that he won the Military Medal. The following year he was wounded, and in 1917 he was invalided out of the army and returned to Adelaide, where he entered into partnership with Messrs. W. and T. Pope, solicitors. Dr. Kerr is a member of the Church of England Synod, and of the Diocesan Board of Education and a trustee of the Returned Soldiers' Association. Since he began practice at the bar he has been engaged in some important cases, amongst them the Canowie land case.

Rey. 8.11.19.

### RESULT OF PARK LANDS POLL.

Ratepayers of Adelaide, by a ballot on Friday, granted an application by the South Australian Lawn Tennis Association for a lease of 3 1/2 acres of park lands near to the Adelaide Oval, and a similar request by the University for two acres of park lands adjoining its oval. The areas were required for recreation purposes by the respective bodies. A meeting of ratepayers held last week, and attended by about 100 persons, rejected the proposals, and a poll was demanded. The rival factions worked vigorously for their respective objects. The vote was taken at the Adelaide Town Hall between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. There were 12,532 ratepayers on the roll, and 1,271 exercised their franchise. Plural voting prevails in such contests, as well as in some other matters, the ratepayers having from one up to six votes, according to the value of their assessments. The result of the poll, with 5,406 votes represented in each proposal, was:—Tennis application, 3,578 for, 1,749 against, 78 informal; University application, 3,508 for, 1,731 against, 71 informal. The result of the ballot was announced by the Lord Mayor (Mr. C. R. J. Glover), in the presence of a small attendance of ratepayers, and he declared the propositions carried.