

THE ORDEAL OF EXAMINATION.

From "PEDITOR":—The February special public examinations are just over, and it is with feverish anxiety that we candidates await the results. I took Latin in the senior, and a pass meant a new era in life; a failure, many high aspirations and ambitions dashed to the ground. It seems like a thin thread upon which one's life depends, and which Atropos, the examiner, has full charge of. Personally, neither myself, pains, nor labor were spared during the last twelve months for that exam. Livy 9, Odes of Horace and Professor Darnley Naylor's syntax, now all possess worn edges and many marks and notes through constant use, backward and forward. So many times had I gone through those books, that I felt quite ready for the exam, and more with pleasure for the result than otherwise, looked to the time when it should be over. However, whether it is the atmosphere of the examination room, or the too great anxiety regarding the issue on which so much depends and so much has been staked, or whether "ita natum sum," I cannot tell. Suffice it to say that I came away from the place feeling utterly exhausted; feeling that I had done my very best, but given what amounted to practically my worst. Only those who have experienced this feeling know how terrible it is. Going home to my little study, where no doubt it is easier to keep a composed mind, I was absolutely astounded on looking over the paper to note how very reasonable it seemed. Some of the foolish mistakes which I had made came before my mind, and with a feeling of despair and bitter disgust at my own efforts I place it aside, failure seeming almost inevitable. Something says, "Never mind, stick to it." "Never say die." I am not a bit afraid of the subject itself, for I contend that one who works vigorously must conquer, and knowledge may be in possession, even though it is difficult to state it on paper in an examination room. The state of being "windy" on the other side may hinder free physical action, but familiarity of shocks may also breed a contempt for them. To overcome a sudden shock after a year of hard, solid grind, when "torpor quidam insolitus mentem tenet" is another matter. Nothing could be said against the paper set this February, especially by one who has prepared good work, but the awful feeling of knowing things in that paper and being unable to think or put them down in proper form is heart-rending. There were three questions, and I allotted an hour to each. First attacking the work from the books set, my hour went before I finished Horace, turning English to Latin, I exceeded it by ten minutes, and coming to the "unseen" just got over really the harder portion and broke down. Yet, strange to say, although sick at the thought of it, even while returning home in the train, accomplished it without very much difficulty. A further three-quarters of an hour would have sufficed to have completed that paper, even though I had tackled it vigorously as I was able. Many and varied are our experiences in life, but I think to help plodders over this stile, who have not the happy knack or gift of doing things at express speed, or the possession of brains that respond immediately to any requirement under any circumstance, something might be done in the matter of time extension.

THE UNIVERSITY CALENDAR.

The Calendar for 1921 of the University of Adelaide is now available. It is a useful document containing full information of everything connected with the University and the duties for this year. The preface gives a short history of the institution and its numerous endowments, and the almanac contains a list of the duties of every department connected with the University. The officers are named, and the donations detailed, while there is a full list of past and present graduates and associates. The statutes, regulations, schedules, and rules are published and the scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes are detailed. There is the pass list and roll of honor, and a special section dealing with the Elder Conservatorium and music examinations. The appendix contains a complete list of subjects and timetables.

TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESSFUL.

At the meeting of the council of the School of Mines and Industries held on Monday the headmaster of the Technical High School reported that the candidates from the school had met with conspicuous success at recent University public examinations. In the senior public examination of the 17 candidates who entered 14 succeeded in obtaining the certificate (five or more subjects) and the remaining three passed in four subjects. In arithmetic and algebra, geometry, and drawing the whole of the students who presented themselves were successful, and there was only one failure in English and in trigonometry. In the senior commercial Miss Marjorie Last was awarded a Poln Creswell scholarship, and she also secured the Tennyson medal for English. In the junior public 26 candidates were presented, 24 of whom were successful in passing the required number of subjects. Over 90 per cent. passes were recorded in arithmetic, English, geometry, algebra, and drawing. On the whole examinations 21 credits were obtained. Of the 27 students who entered for the junior commercial 20 passed. This number is approximately one-quarter of the total passes. In English, business correspondence, arithmetic, and bookkeeping over 90 per cent. passes were recorded. In typewriting half of the successful candidates were from this school, and one student obtained the highest position in both shorthand and typewriting. Miss Marjorie Wiese, in addition to obtaining five credits, won the junior Tennyson medal. Successes in English were phenomenal. Of 83 candidates presented 81 were successful. The top place was gained in the junior and senior examinations, thus securing both Tennyson medals. It should be mentioned that students of the Technical High School receive no credit for their purely technical work, which occupies a prominent place in the curriculum.

THE NEW JUDGE.

His Honor Mr. Justice Angus Parsons will present to a special meeting of the Full Court on Monday next his commission as a judge of the Supreme Court. The new judge occupies chambers on the ground floor of the Supreme Courthouse which were formerly the apartments of the present Chief Justice. Of late Mr. President Brown, of the Industrial Court, and afterwards Mr. Justice Poole, have occupied the chambers. The rooms have been redecorated, and a portion of Mr. Justice Parsons' large and excellently-selected law library now lines the walls. The apartments have also been adorned by several attractive works of art. Mr. Justice Poole has removed to the quarters adjacent to those of the Chief Justice which Mr. Justice Buchanan occupied.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The first term of 1921, in connection with the Elder Conservatorium of Music, will commence on Monday next, and new students are advised to lodge their applications in the University office without delay. In another column will be found a full list of the secondary classes held each week at the Conservatorium. These classes afford special advantages to teachers and students alike. They are open to all who seek musical education whether or not they are students of a principal subject in the Elder Conservatorium.

—Dr. Harold E. Davies, Conductor.—

At the first two concerts of the South Australian Orchestra, Dr. Harold E. Davies (the distinguished director of the Elder Conservatorium) proved beyond question his ability as an orchestral conductor. It may be thought by some people that the best school for an orchestral conductor to train in is the school of practical experience with the smaller orchestra, theatrical or otherwise; but this theory does not always hold good. Dr. Davies can boast of no such experience, and yet he has stood down from his professional chair and yielded the baton with the most conspicuous success. His great theoretical knowledge has made score reading an easy matter for him, and he is able to concentrate entirely upon the highest element of his art—interpretation. He has a penchant for the old classical masters—Haydn and Mozart—and promises to gradually lead us on to things advanced through the perfect performance and reading of these composers as a preliminary. It is our duty to support Dr. Davies as an orchestral conductor.

ONE OF THE BUILDERS.

Tribute to Mr. Peter Waite.

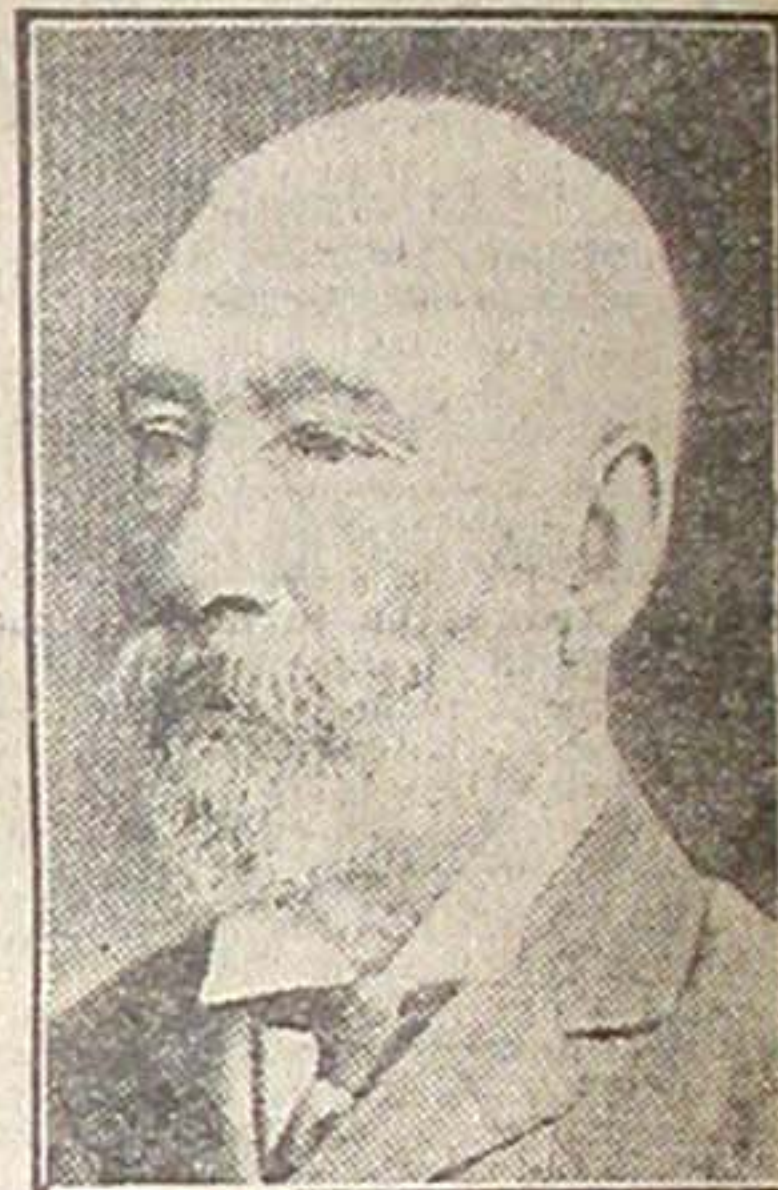
Shareholders in Elder, Smith, & Co., Limited, who attended the half-yearly meeting held on Tuesday, endorsed the remarks made by the acting Chairman of the Company (Mr. J. F. Downer) in regard to the recently retired Chairman, Mr. Peter Waite, who, however, has remained on the board of directors.



MR. PETER WAITE.

Mr. Downer said:—"Mr. Waite has retired from the Chairmanship of the company after having held the position for over 37 years. I need hardly say that it was not the wish of his colleagues that he should retire, but he felt that he could no longer carry the responsibility he had borne so long, so we had reluctantly to acquiesce in his decision. Fortunately for us all, this change involves no parting, for Mr. Waite retains his seat on the board, and his fellow-directors hope, as you, too, hope, that he will attend many more board meetings, and assist us with his unrivalled judgment and experience. During his tenure of office Mr. Waite has seen the company expand far beyond what at the inception of his chairmanship would have seemed possible. He can claim to have largely influenced that expansion. It has always seemed to me that the most remarkable quality in his great personality is the power of assimilating and developing new ideas. Mr. Waite's mind has retained the vigour of youth to a degree far beyond any other case within my experience. His courage, enthusiasm, and energy communicate themselves to all with whom he comes in contact. His lot was cast in our dry north, and he carved success from what would seem to some of us unpromising material. Where ability and concentration of purpose such as his are combined in one person success is bound to follow. From the success which attended his efforts the whole State has benefited. South Australia has had no more valuable colonist. He possesses, or one might say, is possessed by, a quality which makes the success of an enterprise the mainspring of his action rather than the reward which he himself will reap. The beautiful memorial which he has erected to our brave soldiers illustrates his reverence for courage. In that, as in everything else, he has given of his best. No man can do more, but there are few whose best is of the quality of his. And now a word as to his successor. When the chairmanship was offered to Mr. Barr Smith he was very reluctant to accept, for in his modesty he felt the difficulty of following Mr. Waite. It was only on the urgent insistence of his colleagues that he ultimately consented. He has presided at our meetings for over two years, and his great ability has impressed the other directors to such an extent that they would have felt it a real misfortune had they failed to overcome his scruples. It is a happy circumstance merely, and not one of his qualifications for the Chairmanship of this company that Mr. Tom Elder Barr Smith unites in his own person the names of two of the founders of the firm. You as shareholders and we as his colleagues are fortunate in having him to succeed Mr. Waite."

At the half-yearly meeting of Elder, Smith & Co., on Tuesday, Mr. J. F. Downer, acting chairman of the company, after the ordinary business was concluded, said:—"Shareholders will have seen that Mr. Waite has retired from the chairmanship of the company, after having held the position for over 37 years. I need hardly say that it was not the wish of his colleagues that he should retire, but he felt that he could no longer carry the responsibility he had borne so long, so we had reluctantly to acquiesce in his decision. Fortunately for us all, this change involves no parting, for Mr. Waite retains his seat on the board, and his fellow-directors hope, as you hope, too, that he will attend many more board meetings, and assist us with his unrivalled judgment and experience. During his tenure of office Mr. Waite has seen the company expand far beyond what, at the inception of his chairmanship, would have seemed possible. He can claim to have largely influenced that expansion. It has always



Mr. Peter Waite.

seemed to me that the most remarkable quality in his great personality is the power of assimilating and developing new ideas. Mr. Waite's mind has retained the vigor of youth to a degree far beyond any other case within my experience. His courage, enthusiasm, and energy communicate themselves to all with whom he comes in contact. His lot was cast in our dry north and he carved success from what would seem to some of us unpromising material. Where ability and concentration of purpose such as his are combined in one person success is bound to follow. From the success which attended his efforts the whole State has benefited. South Australia has had no more valuable colonist. He possesses, or one might say, is possessed by, a quality which makes the success of an enterprise the mainspring of his action rather than the reward which he himself will reap. The beautiful memorial which he has erected to our brave soldiers illustrates his reverence for courage. In that as in everything else, he has given of his best. No man can do more, but there are few whose best is of the quality of his. And now a word as to Mr. Waite's successor. When the chairmanship was offered to Mr. Barr Smith he was very reluctant to accept, for in his modesty he felt the difficulty of following Mr. Waite. It was only on the urgent insistence of his colleagues that he ultimately consented. He has presided at our meetings for over two years, and his great ability has impressed the other directors to such an extent that they would have felt it a real misfortune had they failed to overcome his scruples. It is a happy circumstance merely, and not one of his qualifications for the chairmanship of this company, that Mr. Tom Elder Barr Smith unites in his own person the names of two of the founders of the firm. You as shareholders and we as his colleagues are fortunate in having him to succeed Mr. Waite."

A GREAT COLONIST.

Personal friends of the gentleman directly concerned in particular, and the whole community in a more general sense, will cordially endorse the glowing eulogy pronounced on Tuesday regarding Mr. Peter Waite in connection with his retirement from the Chairmanship of the famous firm of Elder, Smith, & Co. Mr. Downer, the act-