and patients with manifest asthmatic symptoms were known to have been engaged in the timber industry, and of others who so engaged, but who had worked with woods as a hobby. These asthmatics might be divided into two classes, namely:—1. Those who had become sensitive to some particular protein substance, such as, perhaps, to the pollen of certain grasses, and who as a result were now affected by exposure to inhalant causes which had little effect upon ordinary people. Exposure to any mechanical irritation, as, for instance, dust in a hostrile, might precipitate an attack of asthmatic pollut, and wood dust inhaled in that way might result in an attack. Similarly, dusting books on a shelf might precipitate an attack, as might the inhalation of any kind of pollen. In other words, on those persons wood dust merely acted as a finger on the trigger setting off a delicate mechanism manifesting itself as an asthmatic attack. Treatment for the particular pollen or other substance that set up the reaction was originally found to be to marked diminution in the ill effects following exposure to wood dust. It was unwise for such persons to be exposed to any kind of irritating dust. It could not be held that such a patient was suffering from industrial disablement except in a very limited sense. The disability was essentially in the employment, or in the materials, which was, in principle, peculiarly to the patient concerned. 2. A smaller number of cases the sensitization was apparently not the cause, but was due itself, the sensitization resulting from some idiosyncrasy on the part of the individual. There again the same principle applied, and the soundest solution was for the individual to abstain from running the risk of exposure.

Relief from X-ray.

It was not always possible, the report continued, for the victims of asthmatic attacks, to remove their original cause, to prevent themselves being exposed to wood dust and other dusts that might precipitate an attack. Several volunteers who had suffered from a good deal of inconvenience from asthmatic attacks following an exposure to red pine or blackwood dust, had, through the assistance of Dr. Nott (then radiologist at the Adelaide Hospital), been relieved by X-ray exposures, usually at intervals of about a week. All the individuals concerned had experienced some amelioration of their condition in spite of further exposure to dust. Dust a cure in those cases could not be expected, but it was unquestionable that such X-ray treatment had discounted the effect experienced by the patients. Other patients, as suffering were recommended to try the effects of X-ray treatment.

Skin Rashes.

The question of skin rashes, more particularly those attributed to blackwood, had given rise to much difficulty in interpretation. Professor Cleland and his assistants had concluded that from time to time in certain individuals an irritant in eczematous dermatitis developed on the exposed parts of the forearms and face, especially on the parts which sweated freely in hot summer weather. They had, however, been unable to produce any inflammatory reaction on themselves by applying pads of various sawdusts mixed with fluid substances such as saline, spirit, weak acid, and so on, or with extracts of various wood dusts. It was inferred that in those various wood dusts there was some substance of mechanical nature which was capable of causing a dermatitis in the case of ordinary persons. They were unable to find any substance that in some individuals during hot weather, especially if perspiring freely, fine particles of blackwood dust were capable in some way of causing dermatitis. It was well known that in some individuals were more susceptible than others to mechanical or chemical irritants. They were satisfied that the dermatitis did exist, although cases of it were not numerous, and only a small percentage of those working with wood dust were affected. Proper exhausts should lessen the liability for the sawdust to cause the irritation. It was noticed that the dermatitis was relieved by means of methylated spirits might lessen the liability, but they had no opportunity of the application of this, and it appeared the patient should consult his medical practitioner for appropriate treatment.

Blackwood Dermatitis.

During the course of the enquiry, the report proceeded, Dr. L. Bull, Bacteriologist of the Adelaide Hospital Laboratory, stated that he had at one time suffered from a formalin dermatitis very similar to blackwood dermatitis, which resisted all forms of treatment except the X-rays. A case of blackwood dermatitis was brought under notice, where there was an extensive rash on the forearms and the face was also affected. The individual concerned was anxious to continue his work, which was found to be as fine a job with which he was dealing. By arrangement with Dr. Nott at the Adelaide Hospital the rash of skin, first on the forearm and then on the face, were subjected to X-ray exposure. In spite of being severe the dermatitis soon disappeared in the areas exposed to the X-rays. Moreover, healthy skin areas exposed to X-rays, and a few days afterwards to blackwood dust, failed to show a dermatitis. The results with that particular patient were very striking. There was no question of the treatment being coincidental with the dermatitis recurrence. However, occurred after X-ray treatment exposure had taken place. Several patients had presented themselves and attended once, twice, but sufficiently long to enable the experts to obtain reliable information. Some days could follow the very small doses of X-rays required in those cases. The question was considered was whether that dermatitis was a true trade dermatitis or not, and also how cases of dermatitis due to blackwood could be distinguished from those due to trades due to other causes. They were of the opinion that when blackwood dermatitis first developed in a patient the industry should be responsible for restoring him to the normal condition—that was, the industry would receive the blame, including rest from work, as might be deemed necessary to enable a quick return to the normal state. They were of the opinion that such treatment should not be necessary after removal from the industry, because the patient was quite well. On the return to work of such an individual susceptible to blackwood, they were of the opinion that it would be unwise for him to be subjected again to exposure to blackwood dust, but that he should be employed in some other or other capacity that would not expose him to its effects, and if such work were not available the patient should be given a period of time to find suitable work elsewhere. It must be the patient's duty to see that he did not expose himself to conditions where blackwood was used, and where the dust was likely to affect him. The susceptible person could not have any permanent claim upon the industry on account of his unusual susceptibility.

Reg 9-3-26

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

Interesting Notes.

Praise and Criticism.

The Manual of the Public Examinations Board, 1926, of the University of Adelaide, which has been issued, contains the regulations and syllabus for the coming year, and the examination papers and complete report for the year 1925. The "notes by examiners" cover 56 pages, and are, as usual, critical of the defects of the candidates' papers, while apportioning praise for good performances. The following are extracts:—

Intermediate English.

Almost every student would seem to have enjoyed "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and some of the suggested titles were both pertinent and romantic. "The Enchanted Forest," "Fairy Conference," and "The Pranks of Puck" are but three out of dozens equally appropriate. The essays were on those topics, and contained heavy reading of Stevenson's lively skirmish, which was chosen by 99 per cent. of the candidates. Many candidates seem to "answer in the affirmative," to cloud their meaning by circumlocution, and to prefer the long formal word to the short and simple one. A few examples will illustrate:—"Flowers and other articles dealing with Nature" "Keep your mind using the gifts of God germinate and grow;" "In the end the latter ran his sword through the former." The subsequent results entirely altered the future aspects of David's life." "Stevenson was an athletic side of the world hobby, there is a great tendency on the part of every boy to become an athletic side of the world." Note how the words "results," "aspects," "side," "tendency," "part" beclouds rather than make clear the idea. Stevenson, consider too this circumlocution for Mr. Shuan, the murderer of Ransome:—"The perpetrator of the deed which caused the cabin boy to lose his life."

Teachers would find the chapter on "Argot" in Stevenson's Essays, under "The Art of Writing" a helpful and enlivening commentary on this all too prevalent vice.

The papers in general were weakened by much carelessness in "the" for "they," "her" for "her" "a" for "are," "ar" "and," "ask" for "asked," "thing" for "thing." occurred "at least" in the papers. All this calls for increased attention to detail in classwork, and, above all, for the practice of careful revision.

It appears necessary to repeat, what has been stated unequivocally in previous reports, that a candidate must write English as well as in literature, and that in every answer the examiner penalizes errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar and diction, and looks askance at slovenly and illegible handwriting. Candidates who were sanguine of success will find herein the secret of their failure. As regards style, what is flippant, high-flown, or commonplace, and, above all, shun "gush."

Grammatical Faults.

The handwriting, on the whole, was satisfactory, but there must still be schools where the omission of essential parts of letters is winked at. The same can be said of the habitual use of a wiggle for "and" between sentences this is not permissible. Reckless misspelling what has been written is absolutely unpardonable, and therefore the examiner has dealt more severely with errors of carelessness than with those of ignorance. Carelessness in spelling. Thus "their are," "where fleeing," "the lead," and "know body" were regarded as the worst of errors—in the same vein is the misspelling of words occurring in the questions. Grammar must be a sealed book to many a candidate, if one can judge from the prevalence of ungrammatical words and constructions. A common fault was shown in the diction and inaccuracy in the use of words. The same candidates who spared themselves the exertion of writing "marine" and "marines" and used the initial letters instead were the worst offenders against brevity and simplicity. "In my opinion I think," "I cannot help but liking," "he rejoins again," "came along," and such antological expressions as "but however," "very excellent," "fellow-mates," and even "fellow co-mates," were found in papers habitually marshalated words in writing as well as in speaking. A less serious fault was the use of "quoted" instead "stroked" in the sense of "wrote" and "said" respectively. Coleridge quoted, 'Is that lady (sic) all her crew?' Wordsworth quoted 'Wedding Guest remarked, 'Hold off! unhand me, grey-beard loon!' are examples of this misuse of common words. A few Americanisms, such as the use of "feature" and "sense" as verbs, the English tongue can well dispense with them entirely.

Leaving English.

Again it has to be reported that essay writing is the weakest feature of this examination. The ideas and facts offered was somewhat wider than usual, but in spite of this the essays on the whole were poor in comparison with the pre-war boys bore the marks of the machine. It seems only too evident that the essay is in many respects regarded as a set mechanical exercise, a stiff composition upon a subject that often is lacking in real interest, without a should be the spontaneous expression of ideas arising out of some subject in which the writer may be expected to take some intelligent interest. . . .

The second subject, "Sir Roger de Coverley at a Cricket Match," was responsible for nearly all the best essays. These showed that the character of Sir Roger made a deep impression and that many candidates were able to imagine and describe the behaviour of the kindly old gentleman in circumstances, there were, of course, a number of unimaginative attempts, but the majority were good.

Intermediate History.

The papers still display a great weakness, not merely in their failure to give concrete detail, but in the poor knowledge of the true sequence of events. Marlborough, for instance, is stated to have taken place between the reigns of Edward II. in 1095. Such blunders as these were common. The learning of dates may be the dull side of history; it is nevertheless indispensable to a useful knowledge of causes and effects.

A correct knowledge of geography is equally necessary for an intelligent understanding of the subject. The following quotations from the papers, which are given, illustrate this:—"Blenheim was fought on the River Seine not far distant from Venice." The write of this had probably been taught the correct statement, but the background of his knowledge permitted its reproduction in the form quoted. "When Cecil Rhodes got to South Africa he determined to go right inland, and following the Amazon he explored all the country round, up to the Niagara Falls."

While there was a large number of excellent papers in the English examination much pleasure, there were far too many presented by candidates who were not all it is to be hoped, intending teachers. It is hoped that these entered on their own responsibility and not with the sanction of a teacher.

Leaving Economics.

The results were very satisfactory. The paper itself was a difficult one in that it covered all parts of the syllabus without laying any stress on any particular part; in addition there were no straightforward questions up on the syllabus, since every question was so worded as to require careful and had to be unwrapped before the real meaning could be discovered; finally every candidate was required in setting the paper, to avoid questions which would be in memory only; on the contrary the questions were designed to test the thinking faculties and candidates' capacity for handling a new problem on the basis of principles learned. At least it is interesting to note that most candidates, while regretting the maldistribution of wealth, seemed to think after all it was as well that it was badly distributed. Socialistic schemes of reform were frowned on. . . . Many interesting and novel suggestions were made for raising money for education. One candidate wanted to tax horses, and another to tax those parents, whose children were in the Schools but who could afford to send them to the Universities. A third had an elaborate scheme for taxing "snobbery," while a fourth thought that a money tax on large families would arrest the flow of population so that the present amount of taxation would do for the next generation, thus depleted in numbers. Most candidates, however, remembered their principles of taxation, and framed their plans accordingly.

Mail 6-3-26

Mr. and Mrs. A. Gunnell Price have been entertained by St. Mark's College, Pennington terrace.

News 6-3-26

Dr. William Ramsay Smith has consented to the request of the committee of the club to act as president for the ensuing year. Dr. Smith's association with the club has been in existence for years. This is the third occasion on which he has acted as president.

Adv 9-3-26

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

The first term of the University will begin today, and lectures next Monday. The attention of intending students is drawn to an advertisement giving particulars of the preliminary lectures and classes, and special attention of commercial students is directed to the meeting called for Friday evening, when Mr. A. L. G. Mac-Kay, M.A., will deliver an address.

Reg 8-3-26

After an absence abroad of about 12 months, Dr. T. G. Wilson, accompanied by his wife and child, returned to South Australia on Saturday by the R.M.S. Corinthic. Dr. Wilson, an English Rhodes scholar, who was commissioned to enquire into the use radium in gynaecological work, was chiefly engaged in general medical work. He attended the British Medical Association Congress at Bath in July last, and represented the Adelaide University at the Social Hygienic Congress at Wembley. He will shortly resume private practice in the city.

Mail 6-3-26

Reg 13-3-26

CONSERVATORIUM CONCERTS.

The Elder Conservatorium (Dr. Harold Davies) states that the 1926 series of concerts will include by request the Adelaide Choral Society's music recitals by the Elder Conservatorium String Quartet (under the guidance of Mr. Ernest Hall), the Elder choral, orchestral, and student concerts. The opera class (under the direction of Mr. Clive Carey), assisted by Mr. Winslow Hall, will give performances of student opera at the Norwood Town Hall and those concerts will not form a part of the regular concert syllabus, but will be subject to an additional charge for admission. Teachers, students, and other lovers of music are invited to realize the educational value of Conservatorium concerts. The aim of the series of each programme is made as comprehensible and interesting as possible, and only a small proportion of the attention of the audiences, explanatory notes added where necessary." The plan for the coming year will be opened on Saturday, March 20, at the box office, Cawthorne's, Rundle street.

STUDENT OPERA.

The Elder Conservatorium opera classes are now in full swing under the direction of Mr. Clive Carey, assisted by Mr. Winslow Hall. The works at present being studied are the second act of Gounod's "Faust," the "Garden" scene, which will probably be supplemented by a comedy scene from Prokofieff's "Love for Three Oranges." Dr. Davies, Professor of Music at Cambridge, has promised to bring these works to performance at the end of the year, and to which the whole of Stanford's romantic opera, "Shamus O'Brien," will be placed in a special performance, if the works be forthcoming. Parts for the mid-year works will be allotted in about a fortnight's time. The cast will be chosen by competition, and any who join the classes are eligible to compete, whether they be Conservatorium students or not. The works have been specially selected with a view to providing a large number of small solo parts, and, since many of these are female voices, it is hoped that a good deal of interest will be aroused among intending entrants.

Adv 16-3-26

Mr. S. B. Ellis, B.A., who was elected secretary of the Teachers' Registration Board, Teachers last night, was born in Adelaide, and received his education at Way College, and at the Adelaide University. He was the winner of the Howard Clark Scholarship for English Literature in 1909. He was a master at Kyre College for 17 years, for three of which he was principal of the establishment. For the past seven years he has been on the staff of St. Peter's College, where he is now housemaster of Da Costa House. He is in charge of the school athletic sports at St. Peter's. He is a member of the committee of the Assistant Masters' Association, and treasurer of the Education Society.