

LOCAL EXAMINATIONS.



EXPENSIVE absences from home and friends; long wearisome journeys, distracting the nerves and unfitting the brain for examinational processes; change of scene and habit, when the mind requires to concentrate all its energies on the work in hand—these are some of the many drawbacks attendant upon all junior examinations at a head centre, and which Local Examinations have been designed to obviate. Local Examinations are those which, promoted by some university, chartered college, or recognised institution, are held, under the management of a local committee, at various centres throughout the country, by means of printed examination papers set by a central body of examiners, the papers to be worked in the presence of superintending examiners appointed by the central authority. Speaking generally, such Local Examinations are open to both sexes alike on payment of a fee fixed by the promoting body, and in addition a further fee intended to cover the expenses incurred by the local committee. In the usual way the examination includes several subjects, in most of which the candidate must satisfy the examiners before he can obtain a certificate, which in such cases constitutes a kind of guarantee that the holder has received a fair general education; in some instances, however, in which the promoting body is not a university, examinations are held in several subjects, in any one or more of which the candidate may present himself, receiving, in case of success, a certificate in that subject or subjects only in which he has been examined.

In the month of June, 1858, the University of Oxford inaugurated Local Examinations by instituting examinations for persons of the male sex not members of the university. Six months later, the University of Cambridge followed suit, and their example was subsequently imitated by the Universities of Durham, Edinburgh, Dublin, and the Queen's University in Ireland. In addition to these, Local Examinations have been held with much success by the Society of Arts (principally in commercial subjects), the College of Preceptors, and by Trinity College, London (in Elementary Musical Knowledge). The examinations of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, and Edinburgh, and the Queen's

University, Ireland, were not at first open to women; but have since been extended to them, Cambridge leading the van: while those held by Dublin have, from the first, been open to women only. The Society of Arts, College of Preceptors, and Trinity College examinations are open to both sexes alike.

The University Local Examinations, which we propose in the first place to consider, have proved of inestimable advantage as connecting links between the middle-class schools of the country and the universities, the examinations being in all cases conducted on an academical basis, and many scholarships and exhibitions at the universities themselves being annually awarded to the most successful candidates. Some slight idea of the value of these examinations in the educational system may be gathered from the fact that those held by Oxford and Cambridge alone are taken advantage of annually by some 5,000 students.

The University of Oxford holds two series of examinations in May of each year, the first being for junior candidates (all under sixteen years of age), for certificates only; the second for senior candidates (all under eighteen), for the title of Associate in Arts. Of these examinations, as representative of those held by all the universities, we propose to give a somewhat detailed account.

For the Junior Examination every candidate is required to satisfy the examiners in—

I. Preliminary Subjects, including (a) Reading aloud a passage from some standard English author; (β) Writing from Dictation; (γ) A paper on some previously specified poem by an English author, in which candidates are required to write passages of the poem from memory, and at the same time to answer questions set with a view to test powers of interpretation and knowledge of English Grammar; (δ) Writing a short English composition on a specified subject; (ε) Arithmetic, including the first four rules, Reduction, Vulgar and Decimal Fractions, and the Single Rule of Three.

II. Three at least of the following nine subjects, no candidate being allowed to take up more than six:—

(1.) The Rudiments of Faith and Religion.

(a.) One book of the Old and one of the New Testament.

(β.) The Catechism, the Morning and Evening Services, and the Litany.

All candidates will be examined in this section, unless their parents or guardians object on conscientious grounds (*conscientiæ causa*).

(2.) English, including—

(a.) Some specified book in English Literature.

(β.) Geography.

(γ.) English History.

No candidate will pass in English who does not satisfy the examiners in at least two of the three divisions (a), (β), (γ).

(3.) Latin. Translation into English from specified authors, with grammatical and general questions; easy translation into Latin.

(4.) Greek. As Latin, but with no translation into Greek.

(5.) French. Translation and Grammar.

(6.) German. As French.

(7.) Mathematics. *Compulsory*: Arithmetic; Algebra to Simple Equations inclusive; Euclid, Books I. and II. *Optional*: Higher Algebra, including Quadratic Equations, Progressions, and Proportion; Plane Trigonometry, as far as the Solution of Triangles; Logarithms; Mensuration.

(8.) Mechanics and Mechanism. Elementary Statics, Dynamics, Hydrostatics, and Pneumatics.

(9.) Chemistry (Elementary).

III. Candidates may also offer themselves for examination in Drawing and the Grammar of Music, but neither of these is compulsory; neither may a pass in either count in the place of one of the three requisite Optional Subjects.

For the Oxford Senior Examination candidates must satisfy the examiners in—

I. Preliminary Subjects, including a paper on a specified poem by an English author, Composition, and Arithmetic.

II. The Rudiments of Faith and Religion (unless, as in the Junior Examination, objected to on conscientious grounds).

III. Two of the four following Optional Subjects, unless the candidate has been examined in the Rudiments of Faith and Religion, when a pass in one of the sections B, C, D will suffice :—

A. English, including (1) English History; (2) Specified English Authors; (3) The Elements of Political Economy; (4) Physical, Political, and Commercial Geography. No candidate will be considered to have passed in this section unless he show a fair knowledge of at least two of these four subdivisions.

B. Languages :—(1) Latin. (2) Greek. (3) French. (4) German. A fair knowledge of one at least of these languages must be shown, to obtain a pass in this section.

C. Mathematics, including Pure Mathematics, Mechanics, and Hydrostatics. Satisfactory evidence of a fair knowledge of at least the first four books of Euclid, and of Algebra to the end of Quadratic Equations, is required for a pass in this section.

D. Physics. For a pass a fair knowledge is required of one at least of the following subdivisions :—

(a.) Electricity, Magnetism, Light and Heat.

(β.) Chemistry.

(γ.) Vegetable and Animal Physiology.

(δ.) Geology and Mineralogy.

IV. Candidates may in addition offer themselves for examination in Drawing and Music, but neither of these is compulsory.

Successful candidates at both the Senior and Junior Examinations are arranged in three classes, and certificates are issued to them specifying the division in which they passed, the subjects in which they satisfied the examiners, and, in the case of the senior division, conferring the title of "Associate of Arts."

All junior candidates pay to the university a fee of twenty shillings, and senior candidates thirty shillings; in addition there is usually a local fee of from five to ten shillings, unless the student be examined at Oxford.

The Cambridge Local Examinations are held annually in December, and, as the Oxford, are divided into a junior and senior division; for the former, candidates must be from thirteen to sixteen years of age, and for the latter from thirteen to eighteen. The university fee, for both juniors and seniors, is twenty shillings, and there is also a small local fee to cover the expenses of the Local Committee of Management. The syllabus of subjects for the examination of both junior and senior candidates is almost identically the same at Cambridge as at Oxford, the main difference being that the candidate need satisfy the examiners in two only instead of three of the optional subjects at the Junior Examination, and that at the Senior Examination Music or Drawing is allowed to count as one of the *three* requisite optional subjects. Full particulars as to the Cambridge Examinations, together with the regulations for the formation of local committees, &c., may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Syndicate at Cambridge.

Higher Local Examinations are also held by the University of Cambridge in June or July of each year, open to all of both sexes who have attained the age of eighteen years. Each candidate pays to the Syndicate a fee of £2, and after obtaining a certificate, or after passing in Group A, £1 for each subsequent examination. In order to obtain a certificate, candidates must satisfy the examiners in :—

A. Religious Knowledge; Arithmetic; English History, with Geography so far as it bears on this subject; English Language and Literature.

Also in one of the following groups :—

B. Latin, Greek, French, German, Italian. (One of these for a Pass, and two for an Honours Certificate.)

C. Euclid, Algebra, Trigonometry, Conic Sections, Statics, Dynamics, Astronomy. (For a Pass Certificate in this group a knowledge of the first two of these subjects is required; for a Certificate of Honour, a knowledge of two at least of the remaining five in addition.)

D. Political Economy; Logic. (One of these for a Pass, both for an Honours Certificate.)

E. Botany; Geology and Physical Geography; Zoology; Chemistry, Theoretical and Practical. (One of these for a Pass in this group, and two for an Honours Certificate.)

F. Music; Drawing.

The University of Durham Local Examinations are held in June of each year, and are open to boys and girls alike. The candidates are divided into two divisions, as at the sister universities, the junior including all under sixteen, and the senior those under eighteen; the fee in each instance is twenty shillings. The examinations are conducted on the Oxford and Cambridge model, and it will not be necessary to give full particulars; it only remains to state that candidates passing in the senior division receive, in addition to their certificate, the title of "Literate."

The Edinburgh Locals are open to boys and girls alike, without restriction as to age, and certificates of two grades are granted—Ordinary and Honours. The fees are, for the Ordinary Certificate, twenty shillings; and for the Honours, thirty shillings. The subjects of examination, and the regulations, differ little from those in vogue at the other universities.

The Dublin Examinations are for women only, and are divided into junior and senior—the former for candidates under eighteen, and the latter for those over that age. The fee payable to the university is twenty shillings, and in addition there is a small local fee.

The examinations for boys held at the Queen's University, Ireland, greatly resemble those held by Oxford. The candidates are divided into juniors (under fifteen), and seniors (over fifteen); as at Oxford, these latter, if successful, receive the title of "Associate in Arts." The fee is in each case ten shillings.

The Queen's University Examinations for women are, as at Dublin, for juniors (under eighteen), and seniors (above eighteen), the fee in either instance being twenty shillings.

The College of Preceptors holds half-yearly Local Examinations for boys and girls, there being no restriction as to age, except that candidates above eighteen are not eligible for prizes. The examination fee is ten shillings. Certificates of three grades are awarded, and the subjects of examination are arranged in three classes, according as to whether the candidate is competing for a First, Second, or Third-class Certificate. For the Third-class Certificate the examination is very easy, including English Grammar, English History, European Geography, and Arithmetic only. For the First-class Certificate there are eight obligatory subjects, in all of which the candidate must pass, viz.:—English Grammar and Literature, English History, Geography, Arithmetic, Algebra (including Quadratic Equations),

Euclid, Latin, and *one* of the following—Greek, French, German, Spanish, Italian. There are also several optional subjects which may be taken up if desired. For the Second-class Certificate the subjects take an intermediary position between those for the First and Third Classes. Commercial, Special, and Honours Certificates are also awarded, all particulars concerning which, and of the examinations as a whole, may be obtained from the Secretary, 42, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, W.C.

In passing from Local Examinations held by the universities to those held by other bodies (with the exception of the College of Preceptors), we perceive at once one very distinctive difference. Those instituted by the universities are all more or less Arts examinations, that is, they are intended mainly as tests of the candidate's general culture, apart from any special knowledge, and as such, general certificates are given to all who pass successfully. Now the Society of Arts, and Trinity College, London, almost entirely put aside the question of general culture, and examine separately in special subjects, for proficiency in which distinctive certificates of various grades are awarded. Another feature of this class of examinations is that they are generally held in the evening, and not through the day, as with the University Locals.

The Society of Arts Local Examinations in Commercial Knowledge are open free of charge to all persons, regardless of age or sex (beyond the fact that they must be at least fourteen), who may be members of institutions in union with the society. Other persons who are not members of such institutions may also be examined for the certificates granted by the society, on payment of a fee of two shillings and sixpence, but they may not compete for prizes. Similarly candidates who are or have been professional teachers, or pupil teachers, cannot compete for prizes, although they may be examined for certificates.

The subjects for examination include the following:—Arithmetic, English, Book-keeping, Commercial Geography and History, Shorthand, Political Economy, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. Separate certificates, either First or Second Class, may be obtained in all of these, and in addition, candidates passing in Arithmetic, English, and at least *one* other subject, will receive a "Certificate in Commercial Knowledge," a testamur which is beginning to be recognised in many large mercantile houses. In every subject, prizes of £5 and £3 are awarded, and in most instances a special extra prize of £2, for women only. Many other special prizes, including the Prince Consort's Prize of twenty-five guineas (originally offered by the Prince Consort, who was President of the Society, and graciously continued by Her Majesty the Queen), are awarded annually. All particulars as to these, and full details of the examinations, may be gathered from the Programme issued by the Society of Arts, and to be procured from the Secretary, John Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

Another very useful series of examinations lately instituted by the Society of Arts, is that in subjects connected with Domestic Economy. The series con-

sists of four branches:—Clothing and its Materials, Health, Housekeeping and Thrift, and Cookery. In the words of the Programme issued by the society, the object of the examinations "is not to test the power of candidates to repeat what they have acquired only from books, but as far as possible to elicit evidence of practical skill and knowledge in each subject." The regulations as to prizes and certificates are similar to those for the Commercial subjects.

Further examinations of a similar nature are also held in "Fine Arts Applied to Industries," and "The Theory of Music."

During the present year 1,185 candidates have competed in the Commercial and other examinations of the Society of Arts, working 1,776 papers; that is to say, every other candidate entered on an average for two subjects. Of this number, 155 students competed in the Musical Examination.

The Society of Arts have also this year originated a scheme of Local Examinations in the Technology of Arts and Manufactures. These are held partly in connection with the Science and Art Department Examinations, some account of which was given in the April Part of this Magazine. Each examination may be considered in three parts, the first including those branches of science a knowledge of which is requisite as a foundation for sound technical instruction in the particular industry in question; this knowledge of general science is tested by the results of the May Examinations of the Science and Art Department. The second part relates to the technology of the manufacture, or the application of the various branches of science to it (tested by a special examination paper set by the society); while the third part relates to practical skill in the manufacture itself—this being tested by the returns of the candidate's employment for some time past in the particular art or manufacture. During the present year examinations have thus been held in the Cotton, Paper, and Silk Manufactures, the Manufacture of Steel (including Cutting and Edge Tools), Carriage-building, Manufactures of Pottery and Porcelain, Gas, Glass, Cloth, Silk-dyeing, Wool-dyeing, Calico-bleaching, dyeing, and printing, and the Alkali Manufacture. Each of these subjects is divided into three grades—Honours, Advanced, and Elementary—and prizes of £10, £7, and £5 are awarded to the best candidate in each grade respectively. Full particulars as to other scholarships and prizes offered in connection with these examinations, and all details of every description, may be obtained from the Society of Arts' Programme of Examinations, already referred to.

It only remains to mention the Local Examinations in Elementary Musical Knowledge lately instituted by Trinity College, London, and our subject will be concluded. These examinations take place once every year (at Midsummer), and are open to all comers of both sexes. They are held in various local centres throughout the country (at present about 100 in number), which may be established on application in any city or town in the kingdom. The examination fee for candidates connected with any institution or choir

enrolled in union with the college is one shilling ; and for candidates not so connected, five shillings. The examinations are conducted in two divisions, senior and junior, and candidates are allowed their choice of either, without consideration of age, but no candidate over the age of sixteen years is eligible for prizes or other honours in the junior division. Prizes of £5 and £3 are offered to all comers, and in addition there is a special prize of three guineas, open to cathedral choristers only. Certificates are also awarded to all candidates who satisfy the examiners. Abundant evidence of the need that exists for some such examinations as these (the Society of Arts' Examinations in Music appeal to a limited constituency only) is afforded by the fact that during the present year, at the first of these examinations, 1,118 candidates, or almost as large a number as entered for the whole range of Society of

Arts' Examinations, have presented themselves. This large number of candidates is altogether unprecedented in the annals of purely Musical Examinations, and must have afforded great encouragement to the promoters of this latest endeavour to elevate the tastes of the people. Full particulars of these Musical Examinations may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the College, Weymouth Street, Portland Place, W.

And here we must conclude our review of the system of Local Examinations, a system which is spreading like a vast network all over the United Kingdom, bringing practical tests of knowledge right to our very doors, and bidding all, at the very lowest expenditure of time and trouble, obtain some one or other of the many certificates accepted by the world in general as guarantees of the holder's knowledge. G. W.

THE GATHERER.

Churchyard Gardens.

We certainly do not make the most of our churchyards. They are often possessed of all the advantages that could be desired for a charming garden, yet the rule is to see them bare as a house-top, and much less interesting, as regards vegetation, than the very ditches by which they are surrounded. This is true, not of churchyards in towns, but of those in the fairest parts of our most lovely counties. Yet no spots are more easily converted into beautiful gardens. The expense need not be great : a few score pounds judiciously spent will convert the howling wilderness of the churchyard into a delightful retreat.

Churchyards are more than usually favoured spots for the formation of gardens of the best kind. The situation, at least in the country, is often picturesque ; the soil is generally suitable, the tree-planter has usually the certainty that what he does will last for ages, the associations of the spot are such as to rouse the mind to the influences of great natural beauty, the walls of the church usually afford the finest opportunities for the display of the noblest hardy climbers, and the walls of the churchyard advantages for the development of those of more humble growth, whilst the ground is generally admirably adapted for noble trees, and the very turf may easily be converted into a garden of beauty.

There are several trees well suited for growth in churchyards. Only those certain to be long-lived should be planted, and of all trees hardy evergreens furnish the most easy means of adornment. Summer-leaving trees, however, should not be neglected, as amongst these are our most lovely flowering-trees, and many that give refreshing shade and pleasant foliage, fresh and green, far into the autumn. Where the area is limited, and it is desirable, as it nearly always is, to leave some space between the trees for view, the various pyramidal or tapering trees will answer very well. The low walls often placed round graveyards

offer a desirable position for wall-plants—such as the various ivies, clematis, &c. Sometimes tombs may present opportunities here and there for the growth of plants of similar character.

Flower-beds of the ordinary type are quite out of place in a churchyard. A group of yuccas or lilies may be planted, but they do not need formal beds. In fact, there should just be one large bed—the whole of the turf. In this one of the ideas of the "wild garden"—dotting bulbous flowers through the grass—may be most effectively carried out. The scillas and snowdrops do also exceedingly well in turf, and so does the Apennine anemone. It may be urged that the occasional needful disturbance of the ground would interfere with these plants, but once well established they would not mind this in the least.

On the walls of the church, architecture and gardening may be brought into close union. All who know how readily church walls may be converted into gardens of evergreen and flowering plants, must regret that so many of them are bare of even ivy or Virginia creeper. Many of the finest flowering climbers could be grown in such positions. Each side of the church may have its appropriate plants ; choice roses, and the least hardy subjects, having the warmer and more sheltered walls. Where ivy is grown it should not be allowed either completely to cover the walls, or to wholly exclude other and less common creepers.

Miniature Earthquakes in Farmers' Fields.

Dynamite has lately been doing good service as a powerful explosive. It is now extending its usefulness, and proving a valuable auxiliary to the farmer in his agricultural labours. Ground may often be broken up by it better than by any other means. The process is as simple as the effects are satisfactory. Holes from a yard and a half to two yards in depth are first made in the ground with a miner's bar, or otherwise ; they are placed from four to six yards apart. Each