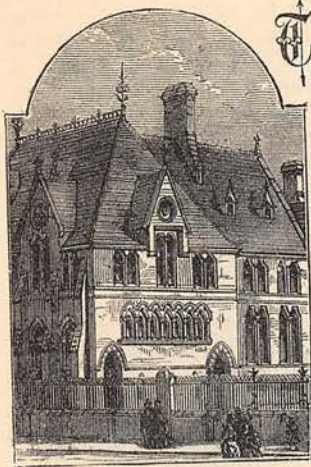


THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY.



THE fact that a new avenue to a degree is open to all who are desirous of obtaining a University distinction, that a new University in the North of England is now in full working order, cannot but be of considerable interest to many of the readers of this Magazine. The Victoria University, Manchester (some account of whose origin was given about a year ago*), has recently issued its scheme of examinations, and it is felt that a little space may well be devoted to a consideration of the regulations, fees, and other points of interest.

The seat of the Victoria University is at the Owens College, Manchester, which college is the first unit in the federation of colleges contemplated by the charter. It will be remembered that the foundation of this new Northern University was mainly owing to the action of the Owens College in endeavouring to obtain for itself individually the constitution of a University, and that when the claim of the authorities of the college was modified into a petition that a federal University might be founded—which petition was concurred in by the Yorkshire College at Leeds—a Royal Charter was granted, bearing date April 20, 1880.

By this charter the University was to comprise certain colleges, fulfilling specified requirements, and conforming to definite regulations prescribed by the charter; and of these colleges, Owens was to be the first. Without travelling any further over the ground occupied in the previous paper already referred to, it will be sufficient to say that at present Owens is the only college in the University, and that the various regulations for the government of the University, the composition of the University Court and Council, &c., appear to have been rigidly carried out. It is more to the purpose now to enter upon an examination of the published regulations for courses of study, examinations, and degrees.

Although endowed with considerable powers, the University has not yet taken full advantage of them, and there are at present two faculties only—Arts and Science. The degrees in these faculties comprise Bachelor and Master of Arts (B.A. and M.A.) and Bachelor and Master of Science (B.Sc. and M.Sc.) while there is a Doctorate common to both faculties,

and varying as Doctor of Literature, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Science. The avenue to these degrees consists in matriculation—that is to say, in placing the name of the student upon the register of scholars of the University—since none but matriculated students may proceed to graduation.

Each student, on presenting himself for matriculation—either in June or in the Michaelmas term of each academic year—is required to furnish to the Registrar of the University a certificate of his admission as a student of one of the colleges of the University,† to pay a matriculation fee of £2, and to sign an undertaking to obey the regulations of the University. The first of these regulations sounds the key-note of the whole system at the new University. Graduates are to be students of the University or of one of its component parts, and are not to be merely examinees, as at the University of London; they must go through certain prescribed courses of study, just as at the older Universities, but residence will not be required of them.

Scholars of the University may obtain either an ordinary degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, or an Honours degree. In either case, what is known as the Preliminary Examination must first be passed; after this, for the ordinary degree there are two examinations—the Intermediate and the Final—but for the Honours degree only one.

The Preliminary Examination is held twice a year—in June and October—and candidates are required to present themselves at it not later than two years from the date of their matriculation, except under special circumstances. All candidates must furnish certificates of attendance upon an approved course of instruction in a college of the University—the particulars of such courses being obtainable from the college authorities.

The subjects of examination are arranged in two optional groups, and candidates are required to satisfy the examiners in five subjects from either Group A or Group B, as follows:—

A.

- (1.) Latin—including (a) one prose and one verse book from the following:—Virgil, Ovid, Horace (*Odes*), Caesar, Sallust, Livy, Cicero (easier works); (b) Grammar; (c) Translation at sight of an easy Latin passage into English; (d) Translation of easy sentences from English into Latin.
- (2.) Greek—including (a) one prose and one verse book selected from the following:—Xenophon, Homer, Euripides; (b) Grammar; (c) Translation at sight of an easy Greek passage into English.
- (3.) English Language and English History (with Geography)—comprising (a) Elements of English Grammar; (b) Composition; (c) Elements of General History of the English Language; (d) Outlines of English History from the earliest times; (e) Elements of Political Geography, especially of Great Britain and Ireland.
- (4.) Pure Mathematics—including (a) Plane Geometry and Euclid, Books I.—III., and Bk. VI. Props. i.—xix. and xxxiii., or the subjects thereof; (b) Elementary Algebra.

* "Two New Universities," in CASSELL'S FAMILY MAGAZINE for July, 1880.

† That is to say, for the present at any rate, he must be a student of the Owens College.

(5.) One of the following :—

- i. French—including (a) Grammar; (b) Translation from a French work; (c) Translation at sight of a piece of French prose into English; (d) Translation of an easy English passage into French.
- ii. German—including (a) Grammar; (b) Translation from a German work; (c) Translation at sight of easy German prose into English; (d) Translation of easy English sentences into German.
- iii. Experimental Mechanics—including Properties of Bodies, Statics, Kinetics, and Hydrostatics, treated so as to require only elementary knowledge of Algebra and Geometry.
- iv. Elementary Chemistry—comprising Laws of Chemical Combination; Chemistry of the Non-metallic Elements and their Compounds.

B.

- (1.) English Language, History, &c. (as in Group A).
- (2.) Pure Mathematics—comprising (a) Plane Geometry; Euclid, Books I.—III., and Bk. VI. Props. i.—xix. and xxxiii., or the subjects thereof; (b) Elementary Algebra; (c) Plane Trigonometry to solution of Triangles; or Practical Plane Geometry (straight line and circle).
- (3.) Three of the following (either two Sciences and one Language, or one Science and two Languages :—
- (4.) }
 - i. Experimental Mechanics (as in Group A).
 - ii. Elementary Chemistry (as in Group A).
 - iii. Greek (as in Group A).
 - iv. Latin (as in Group A).
 - v. French—including (a) Grammar; (b) Translation from a prose and from a verse work; (c) Translation at sight of a passage of French prose into English; (d) Translation of an English passage into French.
 - vi. German—including (a) Grammar; (b) Translation from a prose and from a verse work; (c) Translation at sight of easy German prose into English; (d) Translation of an easy English passage into German.

Candidates for the degree of B.A. must satisfy the examiners in both Latin and Greek at the Preliminary Examination.

Some further idea of the standard in languages required for this examination may be gathered from the announcement of the special subjects for June and October, 1882. They are as follow :—Latin : Horace, *Odes*, Book I.; Livy, Book II., chapters 1–50. Greek : Xenophon, *Anabasis*, Book VI.; Homer, *Iliad*, Book XVIII. French : for Group A, Guizot's *Guillaume le Conquérant*; for Group B, the same book, with the addition of Molière's *Les Femmes Savantes*. German : for Group A, Schiller's *Egmont's Leben und Tod, und die Belagerung von Antwerpen*; for Group B, the same, with the addition of Schiller's *Jungfrau von Orleans*.

Candidates for the ordinary B.A. and B.Sc. degrees are required to pass through a course of study extending over at least three academic years, corresponding to the Preliminary, the Intermediate, and the Final Examinations respectively, of which years at least two must be subsequent to the date at which they passed the Preliminary Examination. An exception is, however, made in the case of students who pass the Preliminary Examination next after their matriculation, and are placed in the first division : these may take their degree after two years of academical study following the date of their Preliminary Examination.

The Intermediate and Final Examinations will both be held in the months of June and October in each year.

Candidates for the ordinary degree of Bachelor of Arts are required to present themselves for the Intermediate and the Final Examination in each of the subjects in one of the following groups, and to have passed through the corresponding courses of study :—

A [MAINLY CLASSICAL].

Intermediate Examination.

- (1) Mathematics.
- (2) English Language (History of).
- (3) English Literature.
- (4) Logic.

Intermediate Course of Study.

- Greek.
Latin.
Ancient History.
English Language.
English Literature.
Mathematics.
Logic.

Final Examination.

- (1) Greek.
- (2) Latin.
- (3) Ancient History.
- (4) Philosophy.

Final Course.

- Greek.
Latin.
Ancient History.
Philosophy.

B [MAINLY HISTORICAL].

Intermediate Examination.

- (1) Latin or Greek.
- (2) Mathematics.
- (3) English Language (History of).

Intermediate Course of Study.

- History (Ancient and Modern).
Mathematics.
Greek.
Latin.
English Language.
English Literature.
Mathematics.
French or German.

Final Examination.

- (1) Latin or Greek.
- (2) History (Ancient and Modern).
- (3) French or German.
- (4) English Literature.
- (5) Political Economy.

Final Course.

- History (Ancient and Modern).
Greek or Latin.
English Literature.
Political Economy.
French or German.

Provided that the Classical Language presented at the Final Examination has not been presented at the Intermediate Examination.

C [MAINLY ENGLISH AND MODERN LANGUAGES].

Intermediate Examination.

- (1) English Language (History of).
- (2) Mathematics.
- (3) Early English.
- (4) Ancient History.

Intermediate Course of Study.

- English Language.
Early English Language.
English Literature.
Ancient History.
French.
German.
Latin.
Mathematics.

Final Examination.

- (1) Advanced English Language.
- (2) English Literature.
- (3) Modern History.
- (4) French.
- (5) German.
- (6) Latin.

Final Course.¹

- Advanced English Language.
English Literature.
Modern History.
French.
German.
Latin.

D [MAINLY PHILOSOPHICAL].

Intermediate Examination.

- (1) Logic.
- (2) Latin.
- (3) Mathematics.
- (4) English Literature.

Intermediate Course of Study.

- Logic.
Greek.
Latin.
Mathematics.
Ancient History.
English Literature.
French or German.

D [MAINLY PHILOSOPHICAL], *Continued.**Final Examination.*

- (1) Philosophy.
- (2) History of Philosophy.
- (3) Greek.
- (4) Ancient History.
- (5) French or German.

Final Course.

Philosophy.
History of Philosophy.
Greek.
Ancient History.
French or German.

Candidates for the ordinary degree of Bachelor of Science are required to present themselves for the Intermediate and for the Final Examination in one of four groups of subjects, classified as A (mainly Mathematical); B (Engineering); C (Experimental Science); D (Biological). In each group, as in the Preliminary Examination, one language at least must be taken, thus showing that in this most modern example of a University one of the requirements of a liberal education has not been forgotten or lightly esteemed. It should be added, however, that the language need not be ancient; it may be modern if the student so elect.

It is impossible for us to enter upon a full consideration of the Honours degrees. It will perhaps be sufficient to say that in the Faculty of Arts students have the choice of four Honours Schools—Classics, English Language, History, and Philosophy; while in the Faculty of Science six are open to them, namely, Mathematics, Engineering, Chemistry, Zoology, Physiology, and Geology—including Mineralogy and Palæontology. All further particulars on this subject may be obtained from the published regulations, to be had on application to the Registrar of the University at Manchester.

The degree of Master of Arts or of Science is to be conferred on Bachelors of Arts of three years' standing, after not less than six years from the date

of their matriculation. Bachelors who may graduate with Honours will not be required to pass any further examination for the Master's degree; but those who take the ordinary B.A. or B.Sc. degree will be required to pass an examination in some portion of one of the Honours Schools Examinations.

The degrees of Doctor of Literature, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Science are to be conferred on Masters of Arts or Science who may have furnished evidence of special research or learning, to be supplemented, when desirable, by an examination test.

One word, in conclusion, as to the fees. The following list gives them all, it being understood that no fee entitles to admittance to more than one examination. *On Examination*:—Matriculation, £2; Preliminary, £1; Intermediate, £1; Final, £1; Final Honours (taking the place of Intermediate and Final Ordinary), £2; M.A. or M.Sc., £1. *On Conferring Degree*:—B.A. or B.Sc., Ordinary or Honours, £5; M.A. or M.Sc., £5; Doctor, £10. The total fees for the highest degree can therefore amount to no more than £6 on examination, and £20 on the conferring of the respective degrees, or £26 in all. The fees at London for a Doctorate amount to £22, so that the charges at the Victoria University are practically about the same, and cannot but be regarded as exceptionally low. Of course, at London University there are no stipulations as to study, while at the new Northern University specified courses must be attended. But, all things considered, so liberal in every sense appears the spirit in which its charter has been carried into effect, that we feel sure a great and glorious future lies open to our most modern seat of learning in England.

G. W.

'POSSUM-SHOOTING IN AUSTRALIA.



NAME of a description likely to tempt a good sportsman is not very plentiful on the Australian continent. A man equipped to the teeth, and able to engage in an expedition into unsettled districts, may happen to enjoy a run of fortune, and make bags of incredulous dimensions. The settler, however—the man who works hard, and yet would have his occasional recreation with the gun—has not a large variety of game to choose from; but he can

always fall back upon the innocent opossum, quite correctly described in the humorous phrase as a "possum up a gum-tree." Of all the marsupials on the great Australian continent, this is the family which is least frightened away by the habitations of men. The establishment of a township makes little difference to the opossum. On moonlight nights the popping of 'possum-shooting guns may be heard around the suburbs of even cities.

The destruction of the opossum is more justifiable than tame-pigeon shooting. Although the animal breeds but once a year, and rarely produces more than one at a birth, it is remarkably abundant in most of the settled districts. Having a *penchant* for green-stuff in its tender growths, it is, in fact, more plentiful than welcome. Gardening in the bush is achieved only through much tribulation; droughts are bad enough, but the ravages of small marsupials are especially aggravating. After, by dint of real sweat of the brow, the settler has succeeded in bringing his peas, lettuces, pumpkins, or vegetable marrows above ground, so that his wife and children may go out every evening to speculate upon the delicious