

system, and Cambridge examiners to wish for the Oxford system. At Cambridge, however, there is a growing desire to moderate the excessive competition, and many hope that the last scheme for regulating the mathematical examination will effect some improvement.

A few words must be added with respect to another examination on high mathematical subjects, namely, that for Smith's prizes. Dr. Smith, formerly Master of Trinity College, left in 1768 two annual prizes, now amounting to about £23 each, for two commencing Bachelors of Arts, the best proficient in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. From the year 1769 to the present date the prizes have been annually awarded; the examination takes place a few days after the close of that for mathematical honours, but is conducted by another set of examiners. When the prizes were originally instituted, the examination by which the places of the Wranglers, the Senior Optimes, and the Junior Optimes were determined, included other subjects besides Mathematics and Natural Philosophy; and accordingly there was nothing strange in the institution of a special examination and prizes for these selected subjects. But the former examination has now for many years been confined to the subjects for which the Smith's prizes are bestowed; and thus the anomaly is presented of two independent examinations, conducted in the course of a single month, for apparently the same end. The existence of the second examination seems to have been defended on the ground that it was different in character from the first, and devoted in general to the more advanced parts of Pure and Mixed Mathematics. But the system which was commenced in 1873 removed even this slender excuse for a double examination, because it extended the first examination

over the entire range of mathematics; and in the work already named the present writer endeavoured to shew that the continuance of the Smith's prizes examination, as then conducted, could not be justified. In this matter also time has decided in favour of the writer's opinion; for since 1873, the undesirable result has too frequently occurred that the Smith's prizes examiners, by their award, have reversed the judgment already pronounced by those who arranged the list of wranglers. For example, in the year 1879, the first, second, and third wranglers were passed over, and the Smith's prizes given to two candidates who stood next on the list of wranglers. In the last scheme for conducting the mathematical examinations, it is proposed that the examination for Smith's prizes should cease, and the prizes be in future given for the best two essays on a subject or subjects in Pure Mathematics or Mixed Mathematics.

In conclusion, I will briefly advert to one circumstance which exerts a strong influence on the studies and examinations of the University of Cambridge, namely, the valuable prizes which, under the name of *Fellowships*, are gained by those who secure the foremost place in the Academic contests. The emoluments of a Fellowship vary according to the conditions of tenure and the financial prosperity of the different colleges; as a rough average, we might perhaps take an income of two hundred and fifty pounds a year for ten years. In most cases the fellowship is terminated by marriage, and in many cases cannot be retained for more than an assigned period, unless the holder becomes a clergyman of the Established Church. As a testimony of ability and an introduction to a future career the indirect value of a fellowship considerably exceeds the direct money payment. A late eminent