

University of Cambridge in establishing local intermediate examinations, to which in 1863 young women were admitted. The plan succeeded; and after a time Oxford followed suit, but with this difference, that it admitted boys and girls to the same examinations. The first universal examination took place in six places in 1863, at which a total of 126 candidates attended. Last December the fifteenth examination was held at 76 places; the aggregate number of candidates was 2,879. Last year 30 per cent. of the whole number of candidates which attended these university local examinations were girls. The Oxford system has afforded curious evidence as to the comparative intelligence and working power of boys and girls—on the whole in favor of the former. The boys excel, as might be expected, in their own special subjects of Latin and Mathematics, but the girls in modern languages and other subjects.

The next natural movement was to obtain the advantage of university education for women. As an experiment Girton College was opened, and subsequently Newnham Hall. Both are close to Cambridge. The former was modelled on the old University College basis, the latter on a more flexible and modern plan. Girton followed the method and studies of the University—had the same curriculum, within the same limit of time, and its students were admitted to examination on the same conditions as the ordinary undergraduates. The result has proved beyond a doubt the controverted fact of woman's capacity for such mental labor as young men of the same age are expected to undertake, and the success of Miss Scott, in obtaining the high position of eighth wrangler in the recent Cambridge Mathematical Tripos has demonstrated the fact that, other things being equal, women are able to carry off some of the highest honors of the University. In the report of this examination it is stated that if women were not excluded from academic honors, three other ladies would have come out in the third class. It is further stated that some of the female students from Newnham, who were informally examined last autumn, were similarly successful. One lady got a first class place in the Moral Science Tripos, and two others a like position in the Historical Tripos.

The success of Girton and Newnham had its influence on Oxford, and two Halls for women were subsequently established there. This was followed by the opening of the London University degrees to women. At this point Lady Stanley of Alderley remarks:—

"It can scarcely be doubted that the earnest, thorough work done by the College, the admirable spirit and tone among the students, and the success achieved in passing the successive years, some of the most difficult examinations, have combined powerfully with the determined energy of the medical students to create that change in public opinion which made the action of the London University possible, and which reduced to mere questions of time any other measures that may yet be needed to open a full and free career of employment to women."

In order to supply the yet "missing link" in higher female education, a "National Union for the improvement of women's higher education" was formed. In 1871 a committee was formed to carry out the various schemes of this society. The Princess

Louise consented to be its President. The special object of the Union was to establish good and cheap schools for girls, above those attending the public schools, to provide means of training female teachers, and to promote higher education for those after school age. Complete success has crowned the efforts of the Union. In 1872 the "Girls' Public Day School Company" was formed. The first school was opened in 1873. Now there are seventeen large and successful schools in operation, with an attendance of about 3,000 girls. It is expected that soon there will be a school of this kind in nearly every town in England. Those established are periodically inspected (as this is their life). Examinations are held by the Universities' Board, and a good number of pupils have passed with credit the Oxford and Cambridge local examinations.

The last step taken was to establish a medical school in 1874 for women. Arrangements were made for instruction to be given to the students in the wards of the Royal Free Hospital. Nineteen British and two Irish medical examining bodies are now enabled to confer licenses or medical degrees upon women.

Thus we see that in every department of female education satisfactory provision has been made in England for it.

CHANGES OF TEXT-BOOKS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

We learn from the last Annual Report of Rev. Dr. Allison, Chief Superintendent of Nova Scotia, that the Council of Public Instruction for that Province has been giving a large amount of careful attention to the subject of school text-books, during the past year. The fundamental principle adopted by the Council was that only one text-book should be authorized for each subject. The list is not yet fully completed, except the Mathematics and Science. In these departments, the Ontario text-books by Hamblin Smith and Kirkland and Scott have been authorized for exclusive use after October. Dr. Allison and the Council of Public Instruction are to be congratulated on the success attending their labors. They have not only secured an admirable set of text-books in the subjects mentioned, but their course has received the hearty endorsement of the teaching profession throughout the Province, as may be learned from the very practical reports from the Inspectors, which form a large and valuable appendix to the Chief Superintendent's Report.

The Rev. Dr. Allison refers to the subject as follows in his Report:—

"In my Report of last year I mentioned, as grounds upon which the necessity of a revision rested, 'the necessary multiplication of books in some branches of knowledge, the total lack of prescribed texts in others, and the admitted unsuitability of some of the authorized works.' During the year, the subject has received much painstaking consideration from the Council of Public Instruction. In some subjects, definite results are yet to be announced. In Mathematics and Science a simple and comprehensive list of texts has been prescribed, authorized for use immediately, and required to be used after the close of the current year in October. While I regret any inconvenience and expense entailed by this revision, I am convinced that, on the whole, great economic as well as educational gain will result therefrom."

We wish the Council of Public Instruction and Dr. Allison success in dealing with the other subjects of the school programme.