

EXAMINATION FRAUDS IN ENGLAND.

WHAT is known as the "Goffin Case" has excited a great amount of interest in the scholastic profession in England during the last few months. "Payment by Results" flourishes there with all the luxuriance of a noxious weed, and amongst the various means adopted to carry it out are examinations held annually in May under the auspices of the Science and Art Department of South Kensington. These embrace some twenty-four subjects in Mathematics and in Physical Science. Men of eminence are selected as examiners. Professors Huxley and Michael Foster, for instance, were the examiners in Physiology and Biology at the late examination, and Norman Lockyer in Physiography. Professors Goodeve and Twisden examined in Mechanics, Professors Roscoe and Frankland in Chemistry, and Professor Guthrie in Magnetism, Electricity, Sound, Light, and Heat.

Examination papers are sent under seal from the Science and Art Department to the various bodies responsible for the management of Science Classes throughout the country. Pupils may select certain groups to be examined upon, and all answers are forwarded for examination to South Kensington. The report of the examiners decides what amount of money goes to each school as the result of the examination,—a certain sum being allowed for every scholar who satisfies the examiners. Of course this system is a direct appeal to the cupidity of school managers who have charge of science and art classes, and this induces them to place a premium upon those teachers

who are the most successful crammers. Mr. Goffin, Head Master of the United Westminster Schools, has had wonderful success in passing students at these examinations; indeed, the skill he claims for work of this kind far surpasses that of any teacher we have yet heard of, with but one exception. It has been no uncommon thing for him to pass pupils of twelve years of age and under in subjects which are difficult enough for an ordinary matriculation examination, and we find from a statement of his own that he actually sent a boy of twelve years of age to be examined in twelve out of the twenty-four subjects. In one year his scholars won a studentship, two elementary school scholarships, a gold medal, a silver medal, and a bronze medal. Is it any wonder that they presented him with a testimonial valued at forty pounds? It was worth Mr. Goffin's while to be successful, for his employers paid him six hundred pounds a year, and he earned from the Science and Art Department above four hundred pounds in addition. Five thousand dollars a year was the comfortable sum his efforts in preparing students of all ages to pass successfully the ordeal of the Science and Art examinations yielded him. At last his remarkable success aroused the suspicions of the authorities at South Kensington, and more than a year ago, owing to information conveyed in some mysterious way, three officials, with Colonel Donnelly at their head, were appointed to investigate his case. Their report led to the cancelling of the examinations of the pupils who were examined from Mr.