

The diplomas granted by the College to teachers are of *three* grades, viz.: *Associate, Licentiate, Fellow.*

"The pupils' examinations were established in 1854—four years before the institution of the University Local Examinations, and two years before those instituted by the Society of Arts, both of which may justly be regarded as more or less the fruit of the efforts and example of the College of Preceptors in their efforts to improve the education of the middle classes. These examinations have been carried on half-yearly since that time, with increasing success; during the past year the number of candidates examined for certificates amounted to more than 14,000. Visiting examiners were appointed by the College for the inspection and examination of public and private schools. About 3,500 schools, of both classes, scattered over the country, are now brought under the influence of the College examination."

I may here add that the higher certificates awarded by the College at the half-yearly examinations of pupils are recognized by Her Majesty's judges, and by the General Medical Council, as guarantees of a good general education; the holders of them who may intend to enter the legal and medical professions are thus exempted from the necessity of submitting to the Preliminary Literary Examinations held by the Incorporated Law Society, and by the various medical corporations of the United Kingdom. All the College certificates above the third are also recognized by the Royal Veterinary College and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The examinations, both of teachers and pupils, it may be remarked, are open to both sexes.

"The total number examined annually by the College at the various examinations that have been men-

tioned, and the pupils examined at their own schools by visiting examiners, is over 18,000—a number which, it may be observed, greatly exceeds that of the candidates who present themselves annually before any other examining body especially concerned with the improvement of the education of the middle classes."

The movement which resulted in the establishment of the College of Preceptors originated at Brighton, as I have said, in 1846; it spread rapidly, and within a year after its organization there were over 1,000 members. Unfortunately, in regard to membership, as a correspondent informs me, the very error for many years was committed which the College was founded to combat. "The promoters intended to include among the first members all persons of respectability, both male and female, who paid a yearly subscription of one guinea. But they also intended, at no distant date (a date not assigned), to subject all candidates for membership to examination. Amid the pressure of other business, and of crippled resources, the latter intention was, however, lost sight of, and it would seem also that there had been some laxity in the granting of certificates. The consequence was that A.C.P., L.C.P., and F.C.P. became involved in a common depreciation." It must be understood, however, that the College, in its documents, had always drawn a clear distinction between examined and unexamined members—a distinction which the general public could not be expected to bear in mind, or even to apprehend. The investigation of the Schools' Enquiry Commission, together with the action of various learned bodies, for stricter conditions of membership, drew the attention of the more active members of the College to the necessity of reform, and