

thought and reflection; and leave the writer to his own control. Orals, on the other hand, necessarily do not permit of each student being examined in the whole of any matter; the time allotted for individual recitation is short; and as a consequence quick and ready response without meditation are essential. Again in every subject of study there are parts more difficult to master than others. Now, as we have hinted, each student in an oral examination must, through the necessary brief duration of recitation, be questioned on but some particular part of a matter. On which account we cannot expect a student who is examined on a difficult point, to pass as creditably as another who is fortunate enough to receive a more simple part. This explains also why it is that the clever pupils of a class often pass the least creditable oral examinations. For a poor student on simple matter has as good, if not a better, chance than a good one on difficult matter.

But we have known some persons who failed to answer in oral examinations certain questions with whose bearing they undoubtedly were well acquainted. What then was the cause? Of course we believe in the truth of that old saying, that what is clearly understood is easily expressed; and accordingly we are convinced that the student who is well up in a subject should not have the least difficulty in an oral examination. But in cases such as we have mentioned, there must have been some impediment to the easy expression. And we imagine that those of experience on the point will locate the obstacle in the timidity or bashfulness of the person examined.

And hence arises the discussion of the importance of oral examinations. In these the student of ready response and calm self-control is the one who will succeed. Knowing this, the true

student will strive to attain those acquirements. He will endeavor to bring his knowledge so completely under control of expression as to be prepared at any moment to let it out. Now, as we heard admirably expressed lately by the Reverend Rector, "A man's knowledge nowadays is judged by the use he can make of it before a public audience." And without a doubt oral examinations, more than anything else, put a man's knowledge to the test of publicity. For this reason, if for no other, we claim that such examinations are exceedingly important, nay almost indispensable, in a university course.

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#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

During the four weeks of its sitting the Catholic Winter School had an attendance of no less than 21,000 pupils, averaging nearly 1,000 a day.

Here is another instance of how surely Anglicanism is drifting back to the Apostolic Fold. Rev. Mr. Black, an Anglican clergyman, states that the number of the Anglican clergy in England and Scotland now engaged in hearing confessions is between 1,200 and 1,500; while the number so engaged fifty years ago might safely be reckoned under a score. God speed the good work.

In a lecture delivered recently in Boston Henry Austin Adams, mentioned incidentally that since his conversion to the Catholic Church, less than three years ago, he had assisted at the reception into the Church of seven clergymen, friends of his, and that 180 of his former flock had followed him into the true fold.

'Twas but a short month ago, we heard in our banquet hall that "Irish and Catholic are synonymous." This was very emphatically instanced not long after in New York, when, at the close of a special term of the supreme court, Justice Pryor, who occupied the bench, said: "It is a singular thing that out of