

EXAMINATIONS, DEGREES AND
CERTIFICATES.

In England the examinations for degrees are now everywhere open to ladies, but under different conditions. The University of London and the new Victoria University admit ladies to the degree of B.A. without any restriction; and at London they come up to receive their diplomas habited in gowns and hoods in the same manner with the male graduates—an arrangement which has at least the merit of producing uniformity in dress. In the University of St. Andrew's the degree given to women is Licentiate in Arts, with the letters L.A., and this degree is placed by the University on the same educational level with B.A. The advantages of this expedient are that, while it gives the lady graduates an equal standing with the men, it prevents the apparent anomaly of the use of a term which has popularly been restricted to men, and leaves the University free to deal, on independent grounds, with the question of advanced degrees, should these be provided for women. The practical difficulties connected with this last question, and with the privileges accorded to graduates in reference to voting, to offices, etc., have probably influenced the older English universities in withholding the B.A. and merely giving a certificate of having passed the examinations. Another difficulty, of course, occurs from the change of name in case of marriage, which would require some attention in the keeping of the University registers; but this could probably be avoided by exacting a small fee for keeping the name on the University books with any changes which it might undergo.

The point most insisted on by the ladies managing the several colleges is, that the certificate or degree, whatever its nature, should be understood

to be equal to that accorded to men. This is with them not merely a matter of sentiment, but a practical consideration, since it is necessary to place the women who graduate on an equality with other graduates in the competition for educational employments. I was assured by several ladies of much influence in the movement, that they attached little importance to any letters after the names of the graduates, provided their equality was practically acknowledged. On the other hand it is certain that some colleges for ladies send up their graduating classes to London by preference, in consequence of its giving the degree of B.A., and I was informed that the regulations of the Victoria University were likely to be of such a character as to attract large numbers of ladies to its examinations, which it is hoped will be managed in such a manner as to avoid the evils alleged against the London Examinations, in the matter of cramming, and of a hard and fast adherence to certain text-books not always fitted to give scope to the most practical and advanced teaching.

ACTION OF M'GILL UNIVERSITY.

As to our own action in this matter, I have felt that this must practically be regulated, not so much by the theoretical views which we might be inclined to favour, as by the demand on the part of women for a higher education than that of the ordinary schools, and by the means placed at our disposal to establish classes for the purpose. On my return from England last summer, I found that the first of these conditions was fulfilled by the fact that as many as eight young women, who had passed as Associates in Arts, were prepared to proceed at least as far as the examinations for Senior Associate, and were very desirous that the University should aid them in their studies. In