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## The Canada School Journal.

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### UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS FOR WOMEN.

Amongst the Departmental Notices in this issue of the JOURNAL will be found the Statute recently passed by the Senate of Toronto University for the institution of local examinations for women. The provisions are easily comprehended, and the machinery for conducting the examinations is extremely simple. The subjects are identical with those prescribed for the regular Junior and Senior Matriculation Examinations of the University, both in number and extent, the chief difference between these and the local examinations being the extent to which options are allowed. It will be noticed that the subjects for the latter are arranged in groups, and that each candidate is allowed to select as many of these groups as she pleases. The questions used will be those prepared for the regular University Examinations, and the names of the successful candidates will be published in a special class list.

This is a matter which cannot fail to interest High School Masters in all our cities and large towns. Last June two Collegiate Institutes inaugurated a new departure by sending up female candidates for Junior Matriculation, and the stand they took was so creditable that the example will undoubtedly be followed. It is not at all probable that those girls who aim at passing in all the groups will elect to go up for the local examinations, nor is it desirable that they should. It is better for both the University and themselves that they should come up to the regular examinations, and have their names entered on the regular class list. But many, who cannot hope to pass in all the subjects of the curriculum, may reasonably expect to be able to pass in one or more groups, and there is no reason why every large High School should not furnish several candidates annually.

It is unnecessary to dwell here on the value of a University certificate, from a pecuniary point of view, to intending teachers; still less is it necessary to say anything of the good to be effected by placing these examinations before girls as an object to work for. They supply a much needed stimulus in this direction, and we expect to see them, at no distant date, extensively patronized. The Senate has wisely invited the co-operation of the ladies themselves in this movement, and on

them, and the teachers of High Schools and private seminaries, must rest the responsibility of failure if it proves unsuccessful. The first examination will be held in June, 1878, and as the time for preparation is rapidly passing, it behoves those who intend to take part in it to be up and doing. We cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that the Senate has acted rather inconsistently in requiring that each candidate shall pass in every subject as well as in the whole of each group, while it allows candidates at the regular examinations to pass on twenty-five per cent. of the marks in some of the groups, as for example, Classics and Mathematics. The test prescribed for the local examinations is the more satisfactory of the two, and we hope to see it applied before long to all the examinations held under the authority of the Senate.

### AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TEACHERS AND TRUSTEES.

We had occasion to express our views last month on the question of paying Teachers' salaries for vacations, and those who are interested in the matter will do well to peruse the circular of the Deputy-Minister of Education, which will be found amongst the Departmental Notices. It will be seen that he strongly recommends written agreements, and though in some cases these may be dispensed with, it is, as a rule, much better to have them. It is of the utmost consequence that in drawing them up care should be taken to insert all the stipulations in such a way as to protect both of the contracting parties and give no undue advantage to either. Forms have from time to time been prepared and issued under the authority of the Department, and those to whom these are not otherwise accessible can doubtless procure them by applying there for them. In this connection we would remind both teachers and trustees that the sooner their engagements for next year are made the better. The first session of the County Model Schools has ended, and it is known who have obtained third class certificates in each county. Those schools are usually most favoured with good teachers whose trustees are on the alert in this matter, and secure the kind of person they want before eligible teachers become scarce.

We would also urge most earnestly on both parties the advisability of contracting for the quarterly payment of salaries. No teacher in this country can afford to get his pay six or eight months, much less a year or more, after he earns it. No other class in the community is treated so badly as teachers, and especially rural teachers, in this respect. They have to live from hand to mouth, run store bills, and suffer losses they can ill bear in the way of extortionate prices, simply because they cannot pay cash for the necessaries of life. It is quite safe to say that to a man who has no other means of support but his salary, the actual difference in money—to say nothing of peace of mind and consequent preparedness for work—between payment quarterly and payment in the old-fashioned way will amount to an average of from twenty to twenty-five per cent. The new Act enables trustees to borrow money for the purpose of paying salaries quarterly—to pay them monthly would be