

## HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

AT the late Senior Matriculation Examinations no scholarships were awarded. This means that the University Examiners are raising the standard so as to put it on a level with that of the First Year Examinations, or that a worse class of students than usual presented themselves. We are of the opinion that the former alternative is the one to choose. If this surmise be correct, we may say that the action of the authorities has been taken not a moment too soon. It is well known that this examination has been regarded as a sort of back-door into the University, and, as the Scholarship-men have seldom held their own at subsequent examinations, the honors obtained have not been highly valued by the general public. In some respects, indeed, Senior Matriculation resembles a "consolation match." As there must be a considerable amount of expense connected with holding the examinations, it seems to us that the wiser plan would be to require those who wish to enter at the First Examination to pass the same test as the students who go up in May. This course would secure uniformity, lessen the cost, and throw more money into the general Scholarship Fund. We have always regarded the Senior Matriculation Examination as an anomaly. Why should a candidate for matriculation not come up at the First, Second, Third, or Final Examination, as it may suit his convenience? It is not well that restrictions of any kind should be placed on a young man's obtaining his degree.

It would not be out of place for the University Senate to exercise more care in selecting examiners. The wholly unsuitable character of the papers set by one examiner at the June Matriculation Examination has been the subject of adverse newspaper comment,

and we believe we express the general feeling when we say that the strictures were deserved. An examiner troubled with crotchets is as bad as an examiner deficient in scholarship. It is one of the misfortunes of a new country that there are few men whose ability is so generally admitted that they can resist the temptation to obtain a reputation for profundity at the expense of the educational interests of the Province. An examiner of students prepared in schools in all parts of the country should remember that his line of questioning will largely decide the course pursued by the teachers of his subject, and that while his main duty is to find out how much the candidate knows, he should perform it in such a way as to direct the energies of the masters into the proper channel. Last month we advocated, in connection with the Intermediate, the necessity of appointing as sub-examiners only those who possess some experience in teaching and examining. We believe that the adoption of the same course by the Senate would be productive of considerable advantage to education. It is true that even the exaction of this qualification might not always secure competent examiners, but it is equally true that the course we suggest would render the desired result more probable. We are altogether opposed to the appointment of raw Honor men. For some time after his success the medallist labours under the delusion that his judgment is as unimpeachable as his scholarship, and eagerly seizes the opportunity afforded him by an examinership of proving to the world the correctness of his opinion. The feeling is quite natural. Every one remembers the story of the Cambridge Wrangler who mistook for a tribute to his own genius the ovation to the Queen when she happened to enter the theatre at the same time as himself. O, course there is a difficulty in procuring com-