

UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION IN ONTARIO

Our topic is University Matriculation, but we cannot discuss it properly apart from the High School examinations wholly controlled by the Education Department. Many candidates take both the Matriculation and the Leaving examinations; by far the greater number take the purely Departmental examinations, and the options for the latter largely determine the options for Matriculation. University men, too, are beginning to see that, while they possess the right to prescribe the courses of study for Matriculation, no satisfactory scheme can be devised which ignores the predominating influence of the Primary and Leaving examinations. I propose, therefore, to consider in connection with the question of Matriculation, the whole system of related examinations.

FIRST, then, as to

THE PRESENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE MATRICULATION AND JUNIOR LEAVING EXAMINATIONS.

(1) *The standards are different*; that for the July Matriculation being twenty-five per cent. on each paper and forty per cent. of the total; while that for the Junior Leaving is thirty-three and one-third per cent. on each paper and fifty per cent. of the total—a distinction with a considerable difference. The September Supplementals held by the Universities themselves, present a still lower standard for Matriculation. The percentage is nominally the same, but it is an open secret that the papers are easier and the examiners more accommodating than in July.

The following statistics, which, I believe, are substantially correct, speak for themselves:

At the examinations held last July by the Provincial Board, 500 candidates presented themselves. Notwithstanding the fact that only 170 passed, we have at present in the first years of the four chief universities about 333 students, of whom about 196 passed in July or presented *pro tanto* certificates, 65 passed a supplemental, and 70 are non-matriculants, seven of the last, however, having partially matriculated. These totals are made up as follows: In the Provincial University, about 151 passed, the July examination or presented *pro tanto* certificates, 24 passed the supplemental, and about 50 are non-matriculated. In Queen's, Trinity and Victoria, 47 passed the July examinations or presented *pro tanto* certificates, 41 passed a supplemental, and 20 have not, or have only partially, matriculated.

(3) Not all the subjects prescribed for the Junior Leaving and Matriculation Examinations are identical, nor are all the papers the same in those subjects that are identical.

English, History and Geography are obligatory at both; but, make the Matriculation standard provided by regulation that, in these papers for pass matriculation either from those for the Junior Leaving shall be supplemented by a course adapted to the letter class of course prescribed for the Matriculants only, ation, Chemistry, and Sight-Work in ature are prescribed for Junior Leaving only. The options are also different. Junior Leaving, Latin, Greek, French and Physics; and for the Matriculation, French and German, French and Chemistry, and German and either Chemistry.

Let us now estimate

THE EFFECTS ON THE UNIVERSITIES AND
SCHOOLS, OF THE DIFFERENCES IN
EXAMINATIONS.

FIRST, AS TO THE STANDARD

On the High Schools, the lowest of
culcation Pass standard has little direct
number of matriculants is small
that for the examinations wholly con-
Education Department; the latter
dominate the schools; and it is to
we owe the advanced condition of
tion in this Province. But, on the
themselves, the effects of the low
been direct and degrading.

(1) Mere elementary work has been is now being done, in the Universities, Mathematics, English and Moderns, and Science.

Until 1890 the standard was but 50 per cent. in each department. No one's experience in examination work bears that, even with the present higher and with equally difficult tests. In June and July, a candidate may obtain 60 per cent. on a paper and practically 50 per cent. of the subject. In this connection the testimony of High School masters of years maintained that many of the culminating students are unfit to take work. I have besides the testimony of the University Faculties, who have said that their time is largely wasted in compelling to do mere elementary school work. The result is a real lowering of the standard.