

and Pandit Bahuballabh Sastri to prepare a Sanskrit Grammar for the Intermediate and B. A. Examinations under the supervision of the Vice-Chancellor, for which Rs. 1000 will be paid to each of them. For an Arabic Grammar to be similarly prepared, Maulvie Azoo will obtain Rs. 2000 and Mr. Harinath De Rs. 1000. Mr. N. N. Ghosh has been requested to prepare a book dealing with 'Progress of India under British Rule and the Present Administration of India' for which he will obtain Rs. 2000. It should be borne in mind that the books thus prepared are to be the property of the University. As we have expressed our views on the policy of the University regarding this question in a previous issue, we need not further dilate on the recent decision of the Syndicate.

FAILURES AT THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

1. The Committee of enquiry report that the system of Examination by Head Examiners "has developed into a method of Examination which is wholly mechanical" and the object with which it was introduced (namely, that of "securing uniformity of standard") "has not been attained, in spite of this artificial system;" nor in their opinion is "any absolute and ideal standard of uniformity" desirable.

2. After referring to the defects of the system of Examination by Head Examiners in paragraph 8 of their Report, the Committee recommend five limitations on the functions of Head Examiners with a view no doubt to remedy these defects. Four of these limitations, namely the first, the second, the third and the fifth are virtually such as already exist in the Rules for Examinations and a mere repetition of them is not likely to add to their force in future. As regards the fourth limitation which is new it will be practically unworkable, because it will involve at least two Examinations by the Sub-Examiners and two Examinations by the Head Examiner of, say, a hundred papers before arriving at a conclusion about the leniency or strictness of Examiners. On the other hand, if the tendency of individual Examiners one way or the other be known to the Syndicate as incurable from before, the best solution would be to eliminate them at the time of appointment.

3. The method of work which is adopted by Head Examiners under the present system and has been existing for years, has been found by the Committee to be "unjust and unsatisfactory." The irregularities on the part of Head Examiners to which paragraph 10 of the Report calls attention, show that even in formal matters ordinary precaution to conform to the Rules has been lost sight of. It is further stated that the system precludes "free exercise of judgment by Examiners," it "being controlled by minute and rigid rules" prescribed by Head Examiners. There cannot therefore be a stronger condemnation of the system of examination by Head Examiners.

4. Under these circumstances I would venture to suggest that, in the place of the system of examination which has been found wanting even after a long trial, a modified system be introduced somewhat on the lines suggested.

5. If the amount of work to be gone through by examiners could be reduced, there would be a proportionate reduction in their number. The fewer the number of examiners, the greater will be the chance of securing competent examiners "qualified by their scholarship and experience in the work of examination" and on whose judgment reliance can be placed. Moreover the fewer the number of examiners, the greater will be the chance of securing uniformity without loss of efficiency. This reduction can be effected by adopting any one of the two alternative methods given below.

First, to hold the examination more than once in the course of the year as is done in London and other Universities of England, or

Secondly, to eliminate answer papers which on a cursory examination appear to the examiner as not worth examining and hence not worth marking. To guard against any preventible source of miscarriage of justice to candidates, the eliminated answer papers should be scrutinized by an examiner detailed for the purpose and papers requiring in his opinion consideration shall be returned to the original examiner with a note that they should be duly examined and marked.

Whichever of the two alternative methods indicated above be found acceptable, the subsequent procedure to be adopted by the examiners in whose appointment in future the Committee recommends that "special care" will be taken, should be as follows:—

(a) About 100 papers should be examined and interchanged among the examiners during the first period of examination extending over a week or so in consultation with one another, one being elected Chairman from among themselves (as was done at the F. A. Examination before the introduction of a Head Examiner there), till a reasonable and thoroughly workable standard of examination is arrived at.

(b) Marks assigned to questions should not be printed on question papers as this encourages a calculating habit in the candidates who do not attempt to answer such questions as they know well to the best of their powers but answer them in accordance with the value attached to them.

(c) Marks should be allotted to questions by the examiners in consultation with one another at the time of examining and not at the time of setting the papers, but this distribution of marks should not at the same time be rigidly adhered to: examiners should be given liberty to show special consideration for specially good answers to particular questions. The important principle should not be lost sight of that an answer paper is to be judged as a whole, the division of marks being resorted to only for convenience of examination. Further, more attention should be paid to the award of marks than to their deduction.

(d) Individual answers too as the Committee recommend should be judged as a whole and not by compartments.

(e) In connection with paragraph 9 of the Report, I beg to suggest that the recommendation contained therein be extended to the Translation paper in the Second Language as well.

(f) The Syndicate or the Moderators should be the ultimate authority for reference in cases of difficulties which the examiners cannot decide among themselves.

G. C. B.