

"The Argus"  
28<sup>th</sup> December, 1898.

"The Age"  
28<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1898.

"The Argus" 70  
29<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1898.

**GEOGRAPHY.**

Passed Candidates' Numbers:—4, 8, 10, 15, 18, 22, 28, 29, 31, 38, 41, 47, 49, 50, 60, 62, 63, 64, 72, 74, 76, 77, 79, 81, 84, 85, 87, 88, 89, 91, 93, 94, 101, 103, 106, 112, 113, 116, 122, 126, 130, 137, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 146, 147, 154, 158, 161, 167, 168, 173, 177, 180, 187, 190, 191, 194, 196, 199, 201, 206, 208, 213, 215, 216, 218, 219, 225, 226, 231, 235, 238, 240, 242, 243, 244, 248, 249, 250, 252, 253, 255, 258, 259, 260, 270, 273, 278, 279, 280, 286, 289, 290, 291, 293, 297, 299, 315, 316, 318, 321, 328, 329, 330, 334, 336, 338, 343, 345, 349, 350, 360, 364, 365, 366, 372, 375, 382, 384, 391, 394, 395, 404, 409, 412, 414, 415, 416, 417, 422, 424, 427, 431, 439, 447, 452, 460, 464, 465, 467, 468, 475, 477, 489, 494, 498, 508, 518, 520, 524, 530, 531, 538, 543, 544, 531, 533, 535, 538, 567, 570, 572, 573, 585, 586, 592, 593, 595, 598, 601, 605, 605, 606, 607, 611, 613, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 628, 629, 630, 640, 645, 646, 648, 651, 655, 656, 664, 667, 671, 673, 676, 680, 680, 699, 700, 710, 711, 712, 715, 716, 717, 721, 723, 724, 727, 729, 731, 733, 741, 742, 747, 748, 750, 752, 754, 758, 764, 768, 771, 772, 773, 776, 777, 781, 783, 790, 798, 799, 803, 806, 812, 813, 817, 819, 820, 821, 823, 827, 838, 840, 841, 844, 845, 847, 849, 855, 857, 861, 862, 863, 866, 874, 870, 879, 883, 888, 893, 894, 897, 898, 899, 902, 909, 915, 918, 919, 921, 927, 930, 933, 935, 943, 944, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 962, 963.

**CHEMISTRY.**

Passed Candidates' Numbers:—347, 403, 566.  
Honour Candidates.  
The following candidates obtained honours:—12, 136, 152, 227, 237, 306, 454, 678, 738, 938.  
The following candidates passed:—24, 48, 50, 386, 501, 638, 712, 810.

**PHYSICS.**

Passed Candidates' Numbers:—61, 94, 137, 146, 154, 170, 250, 266, 269, 274, 297, 354, 375, 410, 447, 465, 483, 505, 529, 530, 592, 613, 671, 676, 799, 811, 837, 841, 873, 879, 933.  
Honour Candidates.  
The following candidates obtained honours:—12, 136, 152, 227, 237, 306, 347.  
The following candidates passed:—24, 520, 325, 501, 638, 784, 938.

**ELEMENTARY ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.**

Passed Candidates' Numbers:—1, 11, 16, 18, 38, 43, 47, 57, 66, 62, 63, 66, 76, 81, 85, 89, 94, 99, 103, 104, 112, 116, 122, 123, 130, 139, 143, 144, 154, 155, 161, 167, 168, 170, 172, 177, 181, 182, 184, 188, 189, 190, 191, 196, 197, 199, 206, 207, 209, 213, 218, 219, 222, 224, 225, 228, 230, 243, 244, 249, 252, 259, 266, 278, 279, 286, 289, 293, 299, 303, 310, 313, 327, 329, 330, 334, 341, 384, 386, 391, 397, 404, 406, 420, 421, 425, 426, 427, 428, 433, 439, 445, 454, 456, 464, 469, 472, 475, 478, 483, 484, 485, 495, 496, 497, 512, 517, 525, 533, 537, 538, 544, 546, 553, 555, 557, 569, 572, 575, 577, 580, 598, 599, 605, 608, 611, 613, 620, 621, 622, 623, 627, 628, 633, 645, 646, 634, 664, 666, 667, 670, 671, 673, 676, 679, 680, 683, 684, 688, 689, 690, 691, 700, 701, 710, 711, 714, 716, 721, 727, 750, 751, 757, 770, 771, 773, 776, 777, 781, 783, 785, 787, 790, 791, 792, 795, 796, 797, 805, 806, 813, 820, 824, 826, 827, 830, 830, 839, 840, 841, 847, 848, 849, 853, 858, 863, 865, 866, 869, 871, 877, 879, 888, 891, 895, 896, 897, 899, 902, 904, 910, 911, 912, 913, 918, 919, 921, 922, 924, 926, 927, 937, 939, 942, 944, 946, 949, 950, 953, 954, 956, 962.  
Honour Candidates.  
The following candidates obtained honours:—14, 69, 88, 151, 156, 210, 258, 350, 381, 474, 477, 481, 532, 534, 603, 604, 610, 629, 648, 661, 662.  
The following candidates passed:—214, 292, 291.

**BOTANY.**

Passed Candidates' Numbers:—20, 26, 29, 51, 62, 63, 66, 88, 93, 103, 116, 119, 120, 121, 128, 139, 163, 167, 177, 190, 199, 213, 215, 222, 244, 247, 252, 260, 262, 265, 310, 312, 313, 319, 320, 328, 351, 395, 417, 420, 433, 436, 446, 475, 494, 512, 516, 524, 525, 542, 549, 555, 568, 575, 598, 599, 601, 606, 620, 621, 623, 626, 645, 666, 667, 671, 672, 680, 683, 689, 690, 697, 723, 724, 728, 741, 747, 770, 772, 779, 798, 808, 821, 827, 834, 842, 862, 870, 876, 889, 883, 904, 915, 922, 925, 940, 957.  
Honour Candidates.  
The following candidates obtained honours:—210, 258, 474, 681, 554, 630, 661, 662, 893.  
The following candidates passed:—11, 60, 156, 294, 350, 351, 532, 604, 610, 629, 757, 894.

**MUSIC.**

Passed Candidates' Numbers:—19, 137, 151, 132, 169, 185, 192, 245, 288, 335, 339, 344, 370, 371, 432, 473, 486, 568, 569, 541, 542, 556, 579, 589, 612, 630, 658, 660, 800, 828, 850, 857, 860.  
Honour Candidates.  
The following candidates obtained honours:—30, 92, 105, 229, 494, 515, 545, 571, 633, 722.  
The following candidates passed:—217, 419.

**MATRICULATION "EXAM."**

**PERCENTAGES OF PASSES AND FAILURES.**

At the recent matriculation examination held at Melbourne, Ballarat, Geelong, Bendigo, Kyneton, Warrambool, Beechworth, Hamilton and at Brisbane and Bundaberg, in Queensland, and at Geraldton, in West Australia, 964 entries were received. Of this number 830 candidates attempted to pass the whole examination, and 351, or 42 per cent., succeeded in the attempt. At the corresponding examination held during November of last year, 378 out of 795 candidates passed the whole examination, or a percentage of 47.

On looking over the average percentage of passes at several recent examinations, it will be seen that the average percentage of passes is generally about 40 per cent., so that at the examination just completed the percentage is slightly above the average. We append herewith a statement showing the percentage of failures of candidates in each separate subject, and also the number who presented, passed and failed in each subject:—

Subjects.	Presented.	Passed.	Failed.	Obtained Honors.	Percentage of Failures.
Greek .. .. .	77..	62..	15..	19..	44
Latin .. .. .	416..	232..	184..	19..	44
Algebra .. .. .	782..	532..	250..	10..	29
Geometry .. .. .	610..	439..	171..	14..	28
English .. .. .	800..	494..	306..	60..	23
History .. .. .	606..	503..	103..	31..	17
French .. .. .	505..	472..	33..	53..	6
German .. .. .	98..	76..	22..	33..	22
Arithmetic .. .. .	709..	368..	341..	..	48
Geography .. .. .	603..	280..	323..	..	52
Chemistry .. .. .	57..	21..	36..	10..	63
Physics .. .. .	131..	45..	86..	7..	66
Elementary Anatomy and Physiology .. .. .	253..	256..	99..	21..	27
Botany .. .. .	164..	117..	47..	9..	28
Music .. .. .	52..	45..	7..	9..	13
Total .. .. .	6,151..	3,951..	2,200..	286..	—

\* Pass papers only are set in arithmetic and geography.

The average percentage of failures in all the subjects of examination is almost 36 per cent. This number being taken as the average, it will be seen at a glance in which subjects candidates succeeded in topping the average.

The highest percentages of failures are in chemistry and in physics. In chemistry only 3 pass candidates passed out of a total of 34 candidates, but the candidates who entered for honors were much more successful, only 5 falling out of 23, whilst 10 out of the 18 who passed obtained honors.

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The matriculation results may be regarded from two points of view. Firstly, there is the percentage of failures to pass in such a number of subjects as would entitle the candidates to matriculate. By this test only 351 out of 830 aspirants were successful—that is to say, the percentage of the plucked rose nearly to 58. Another and a more significant tale is told by the analysis of passes and failures in individual subjects. As to the first aspect of the question we do not know that there is ground for very acute

surprise, still less for despondency. The number of candidates who go through the form of knocking at the doors of the University does not correspond by any means with the number who have any legitimate expectation of proving their title to admittance. Although the matriculation is no certificate of proficiency—merely an indication that the young learner has gone so far that he may be encouraged to go further—it does not follow that all who present themselves have either much hope or any very keen desire on the subject. If the candidates unflinchingly represented the intellectual pick of the schools—if they consisted only of those who have shown most natural aptitude and capacity for study—it would be an ill sign that more than half should be turned away as unfit to commence a University course. As it is, however, the circumstances and ambitions of parents have often some influence in sending lads to meet failure half way. The judgment of a head master is not always the only thing that weighs. Many a boy, whose chief recommendation is a sunny geniality of disposition, and who shows no true bent save towards the cricket-field and the river, is the object of hopes never destined to be fulfilled. Means are ample, perhaps, to give him a favouring start in one of the learned professions if he can but squeeze through the entrance-gate. Parents

and guardians are not easily to be turned from their desire that young hopeful shall at least make the trial. Failure definitely announced, is the only argument that will be accepted as final. The youth may prosper hereafter in a career where a little learning will go a long way eked out by common sense and pleasant manners. He will grow up to "tell the truth and keep his nails clean" by instinct, as was said of Arnold's pupils. But it was necessary before he could be allowed to turn his slight stock of brains to the most profitable account that his name should swell the list of matriculation failures.

The more serious lesson conveyed by these figures is the low average of passes in those subjects which are regarded as the groundwork of modern education. English, geography, history, arithmetic, algebra, are so to speak, elementary subjects, taken up by the great majority of candidates. But some of the latest results are chronicled on the very ground where the pupils' footing should be firmest. Whereas the average of failures in all subjects is 35.76 per cent., in geography the percentage rises to 52, in arithmetic to 48, in English to 38. The tabulated returns suggest upon the whole a rather widespread neglect of the branches of study at which the pupil has been mechanically "stewing" ever since he entered a primary school in order that he may diligently "cram" up something which lies outside the elementary curriculum. In the commonplace subjects the standard is not reached. This idea is confirmed the closer the results are scanned. For instance, the modern language selected by an overwhelming majority of candidates is French, and here the percentage of passes is more satisfactory than in any other subject save music. Only 20.67 per cent. failed. A striking difference, again, is noticeable between the results in arithmetic and algebra. While the former subject received such slipshod attention that nearly half the papers were rejected, in the higher branch of study, mathematics, the failures were only 29 or 30 per cent. The classics present no very brilliant record, but the few candidates who take up Greek do noticeably better than the many who take up Latin. As regards natural science, the revelation is dismal. Few are sufficiently attracted by chemistry and physics to stake their chances upon these important subjects, the practical usefulness of which ought to receive more than dawning recognition in this age. And of the slender band 63 and 65 per cent. marched to failure. There is food here for grave consideration to those interested in the educational future of the colony. The first and most disquieting query presenting itself is whether the system is weakening at its foundations, where it should be firmest.