

MEMORANDUM.

OPINIONS from the Heads of affiliated Colleges, Directors of Public Instruction, and Inspectors of Schools, in answer to a letter addressed to them by the late Officiating Registrar, requesting them to give their views on the desirability of abolishing the passing-marks in all subjects except English, Mathematics and the second language for the A Course, and English, Mathematics and Chemistry for the B Course, printed in accordance with a Resolution of the Faculty of Arts at their meeting on the 12th of May 1877.

SENATE HOUSE,
The 16th May 1877. }

CHARLES H. TAWNEY,
Registrar.

WITH reference to your letter dated 13th March 1877, I have the honour to state that, in my opinion, the proposed plan of abolishing the passing mark in all subjects except English, Mathematics and second language for the A Course, and English, Mathematics and Chemistry for the B Course, would constitute an improvement on the present system.

2. We may no doubt expect that students will not be so regular as heretofore in attendance at all the lectures given in their College when the new system is adopted. This, however, is not necessarily an evil. I see no reason to anticipate any injury to the discipline of a College as resulting from the changes proposed.

DACCA,
The 16th March 1877. }

A. EWBANK,
Principal, Dacca College.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 13th of March 1877, and to submit my opinion on the question raised in paragraph 2.

If I may be permitted to state that opinion unreservedly, it is as follows :

I approve of the proposal to abolish the passing-mark in all subjects except English, Mathematics and the second language for the A Course, and English, Mathematics and Chemistry for the B Course. The measure will, as far as I can judge, be advantageous both to the instruction and to the discipline of the Colleges.

From the secondary importance assigned to Philosophy I dissent ; but with the present text-books, Hamilton excepted, Philosophy can hardly be said to be recognized as part of the University curriculum. The proposed measure will, however, allow our students to take interest, and attain to proficiency, in the principal portions of the Course as at present constituted ; and, with many other Educational officers, I shall rejoice at any abatement of its perplexing multiplicity. Under the existing system, enthusiasm about any one department of study, such as is common among European University students, is usually precursory to failure in other departments. Enthusiasm is accordingly repressed. The effect of the contemplated change will be, I think, somewhat greater thoroughness in the teaching, and somewhat greater spontaneity of effort on the part of the taught.

BENARES,
The 17th March 1877. }

ARCHIBALD E. GOUGH,
Offg. Principal, Benares College.

WITH reference to "the proposal to abolish the passing-mark in all subjects, except English, Mathematics and the second language for the A Course, and English, Mathematics and Chemistry for the B Course," I have the honor to state that the contemplated change is one which I shall heartily welcome. Its effect "upon the discipline and teaching of the Colleges" will, I feel sure, be a healthy one.

AGRA,
The 17th March 1877. }

K. DEIGHTON,
Principal, Govt. College, Agra.

WITH reference to your Circular, dated 13th March 1877, calling on me to state what effect the change therein proposed will, in my opinion, have upon the discipline and teaching of the Presidency Collège, I have the honor to inform you that I have no reason to believe it will have a prejudicial effect upon either. On the contrary, I anticipate great advantages from it, as it will enable those students who take a real interest in some one subject, say English Literature or Chemistry, to devote more time to their favourite study.

I should myself be inclined to go a step further: I would make it possible for a student, after passing the First Arts Examination, to discard Mathematics altogether, and go out in Literature and History only. This reform would necessitate many other changes; but I trust I may be permitted to express my opinion, that it would be a great boon to many students who have a taste for Literature, and prefer attaining a sound knowledge of English to acquiring a smattering of many subjects.

PRESIDENCY COLLEGE, }
The 19th March 1877. }

CHARLES H. TAWNEY,
Principal, Presidency College.

IN reply to your letter dated the 13th March 1877, I beg to state that, in my opinion, the contemplated alteration mentioned in the second paragraph of your letter will practically have no effect upon the discipline and teaching of the Hooghly College, because the minimum number of marks required, as stated in paragraph 1, is sufficiently high to oblige ordinary students to take up the optional subjects (*viz.*, Botany and Physical Geography), and to ensure their regular attendance at these lectures.

HOOGHLY COLLEGE, }
The 19th March 1877. }

W. GRIFFITH,
Offg. Principal, Hooghly College.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th March, regarding the proposal to abolish the passing-marks in all subjects, except English, Mathematics and second language for the A Course, and English, Mathematics and Chemistry for the B Course.

In reply, I beg to say that I fully concur with the proposal. It will have no bad effect on the discipline or teaching of this School.

JUBBULPORE, }
The 19th March 1877. }

W. YOUNG,
President, High School, Jubbulpore.

IN reply to your letter of the 13th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I think the alteration proposed by the Syndicate respecting the change to be made in the passing-marks of the B. A. Examination will be beneficial on the ground that it will tend to make those who take up the principal subjects more proficient than was likely to be the case when their energies were scattered over a wider area.

I cannot tell what effect it would have upon the discipline and teaching of the College, as we have not as yet taught up to this standard; but I am strongly of opinion that it would be generally satisfactory, as the instructive staff of the Colleges in these Provinces is, as a general rule, not strong enough to undertake the direct instruction of all the branches of study laid down in the University curriculum, and consequently one or more of the subjects (as History and Philosophy of the A Course) is left almost entirely to the independent efforts of the students themselves.

AGRA, }
The 21st March 1877. }

S. SHARMAN,
Principal, Victoria College, Agra.

WITH reference to paragraph 3 of your letter dated 13th instant, I have the honor to state that Cuttack College takes up the Science Course only, and so far as the proposed alteration in the "passing-marks" affects this course, I disapprove of its adoption. If no minimum be enforced, Orissa students will, I fear, give but small attention to either Physical Geography or Botany; and Science for the B. A. degree in the alternate course would be little more than nominal.

CUTTACK, }
The 23rd March 1877. }

J. AGER,
Principal, Govt. College, Cuttack.

IN reply to your letter dated the 13th instant, I have the honor to state that, in my humble opinion, every one of the subjects laid down in the Course requires pass-marks to secure it from being neglected. As Oriental Examiner of the Punjab University College in all