

IN reply to your circular of 13th March, I have the honor to state that I have consulted on the subject therein referred to with Mr. Gall, the Professor of Science and Mathematics in our College, and we are both of opinion that raising the pass-marks for the B. A. degree would have a beneficial effect. We would suggest, however, that Physics be substituted for Chemistry, as the subject in which pass-marks must be obtained. Chemistry the students have already studied to a certain extent, but Physics is a new subject to them and forms the bulk of the B Course. The latter subject, therefore, is certain to be neglected if it be not made compulsory, and the probable result will be that the student will fail to make up the requisite 180 marks on the whole examination.

LUCKNOW,
The 27th March 1877. }

MICHAEL J. WHITE, M. A.,
Principal, Canning College.

WITH reference to your circular letter dated 13th March 1877, respecting alterations proposed to be made in the passing-marks at the B. A. Examination for the A and B Courses alike, I have the honor to reply as follows.

2. I am of opinion that the raising of the marks will be beneficial, qualified as the measure will be by the proposal not to require the full passing-mark of 33 per cent. in more than three subjects in either course.

3. I do not feel satisfied, however, that Physics should form one of the subjects selected for leniency in the B Course. This subject constitutes the bulk of the B Course, and some colleges have made special arrangements for its teaching. I would, therefore, suggest that *Chemistry be substituted for Physics* and be classified with Physical Geography.

LUCKNOW,
The 29th March 1877. }

JOHN C. NESFIELD,
Director of Public Instruction, Oudh.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo.

2. By the abolition of the passing-marks in the subjects of Mental and Moral Philosophy, Logic and History in the A Course, and in the subjects of Physics and Natural Science in the B Course, it is apprehended that these subjects will be neglected by students studying for their degree. They will, I think, usually be content to qualify for their degree in English, a second language, and elementary Mathematics for the A Course, or in English, Mathematics and Chemistry for the B Course. Possibly, some students will guard against failure by reading privately History for the A Course, or some group of subjects in Physics or Natural Science for the B Course.

3. We have no college in the Central Provinces, and the abolition of the pass-marks in the subjects mentioned would facilitate the establishment of a college, as fewer Professors would be required.

4. But speaking without especial reference to these provinces, I would say, that the value of an ordinary degree is, that it is an assurance that a Bachelor of Arts is a gentleman of moderate culture in many branches of knowledge. If the pass-marks cease for certain subjects, then the standard is raised for other subjects, and the Calcutta University degree will represent that its possessor is well acquainted either with two languages and elementary mathematics, or with one language, elementary mathematics and chemistry. It seems to me that a Degree in Honors fittingly insists upon depth of knowledge, and that an ordinary Degree merely implies sound, yet varied culture. The pass-mark might then be retained for each subject in which a man is liable to examination, and such subjects for which the pass-mark is not retained may be definitely omitted from the curriculum. I could only recommend the omission of the pass-mark in certain subjects, if it is found by experience that the ordinary student cannot acquire a sound, yet moderate, knowledge of all the subjects in which he is liable to examination. And then the question arises, should the University set its stamp of approval on the education of a man who may know nothing of Philosophy and Natural Science or Physics? But this question, I understand, the Syndicate have already determined.

NAGPORE,
The 7th April 1877. }

COLIN BROWNING, M. A.,
Inspr. Genl. of Education, C. P.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th March 1877. With reference to paragraph 2 I beg to state that I am entirely in favor of the proposal therein made, and consider that its adoption would be an advantage to the discipline and teaching of the Colleges.

UMBALLA,
The 17th April 1877. }

C. R. COOKE,
Inspector of Schools, Umballa Circle.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13th March 1877.

I welcome the decision of the Syndicate regarding the raising of pass-marks at the B. A. Examination with great pleasure. It will, without doubt, tend to produce a better class of educated men than what the University has hitherto turned out.

The restriction requiring candidates to obtain a certain percentage of marks in each subject is, in my opinion, a great drawback in the University system of examination, and has frequently been a source of complaint. Under this system, a student endowed with the natural ability and industry of a Grote, a Carlyle, or even a Newton, cannot hope to finish his University career with any degree of success, but a first-rate crammer can do so easily. I am in favor of abolishing pass-marks in all subjects, and would consider it sufficient if a candidate can keep a certain percentage of the total marks; but if this wholesale change cannot at present be carried out, I would consider the proposal contained in your letter under reply, which is to the effect that candidates will be required to keep a certain percentage of marks in some of the more important subjects, instead of in all, as an improvement over the existing system.

CUTTACK,
The 2nd May 1877. }

N. B. DAS,
Joint Insp. of Schools, Urisa Division.

By your communication dated March 13th, 1877, you invite the remarks of heads of colleges upon some changes contemplated by the Syndicate in the rules for the B. A. Examinations.

I quite approve of the proposed raising of the passing-marks mentioned in paragraph 1.

I think it a move in a right direction to abolish the passing-marks in some subjects, but I do not concur in the selection of the subjects for the B Course, in which the passing-mark 33 is to be retained. These subjects are English, Mathematics and Chemistry: now it seems to me that in the Science course, instead of giving prominence to Chemistry, for which one paper only is set, due notice should be taken of the optional subject in Physical Science, for which two papers are given and double the number of marks. I propose, therefore, to substitute Physical Science for Chemistry in the list of subjects for which pass-marks will be still required. If this cannot be done, let the option be given to the candidates to select either Chemistry or Physical Science as the subject for which they submit to the pass-marks. The adoption of Chemistry in preference to Physical Science would, in my opinion, ruin the B Course altogether.

E. LAFONT, S. J.,
Rector, St. Xavier's College.