

A.

AL/1786

Proposed Admission of Girls to University Local Examinations.

17, CUNNINGHAM PLACE, LONDON, N.W.

Jan. 12th 1863.

Sir

Towards the close of last year,
a Committee in furtherance of
the above object was formed in
London, & I was desired to
communicate with the Secretaries
of the Local Committees at the
various centres, with a view
to obtain, if possible, their
cooperation.

The Secretary of the Essex Local

Committee for Bedford, refers us to
you, as one of the persons most
able to advise and assist us.

I venture therefore to send you
a short statement of the views
of the Committee, & to request
your favourable consideration of
the object proposed.

I enclose also a list of our
Committee. I may mention however,
that this is a small working body,
designedly limited in number,
but representing a considerable

number of persons interested
in female education, including
heads of girls' schools, and others
actually engaged in the work.

I am Sir,

Yours obediently

S. E. Davies.

Sec. Sec.

B.

WNT AL/1786

Proposed Admission of Girls to University Local Examinations.

17, CUNNINGHAM PLACE, LONDON, N.W.

The Committee in furtherance of this object, desire to supply the want, which they have reason to believe is widely felt, of some publicly recognised examination for girls. It has been found that the more prominent teachers feel at loss for some definite aim and standard, to guide them in their work, while at the same time they would be glad to be able to offer some evidence to the public, that their exertions have not been unsuccessful.

The Committee are of opinion that the University Local Examinations are especially adapted to meet

this deficiency, as testing thoroughness in the more elementary branches of education, which are often neglected in girls' schools, and as giving to wide a range in the optional subjects, as to make it quite possible for a well instructed girl to obtain a certificate, without in any way overstepping the usual boundaries of female education.

Probably a large proportion of the girls presented for examination would be preparing either to become teachers or to maintain themselves in some other calling. To such young persons, a certificate of proficiency in the ordinary subjects of education would be of great practical value.

A collateral advantage which might be expected to result from

the extension of these examinations, would be that of calling attention to the present state of middle class female education, a subject as yet, less known and considered than its great importance would seem to demand.

The Committee are anxious to make it distinctly understood that they do not ask for any alteration in the regulations laid down by the Universities, which appear to them admirably adapted to meet the exigencies of the case, their desire being simply that those teachers who may wish to submit their pupils to the test of an examination should not be precluded from doing so. It is not expected that there would be a very large number of female candidates, for

some years, at least. Probably the proportion would be so small, as not materially to affect the character of the examinations in any way.

A similar experiment made by the Society of Arts, has been attended with remarkable success. These examinations were in 1858, thrown open to both sexes. In May 1862, women availed themselves of the privilege in eleven institutions connected with the Society, and the Secretaries of these institutions are unanimous in declaring that no inconvenience whatever has resulted from the admixture of candidates.

S. E. Davies

Hon. Sec.

Jan. 1863

C.

W.N. AL/1786

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17, CUNNINGHAM PLACE, LONDON, N.W.

Committee.

Mr. Bodiehn

Miss Bostock.

Miss Isa Craig.

G. W. Hastings, Esq.

James Heywood, Esq.

The Recorder of London.

Treasurer. Lady Goldsmid.

Hon. Sec. Miss Davies.

W.A. AL 71286

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The Committee in furtherance of this object, desire to supply the want, which they have reason to believe is widely felt, of some publicly recognised examination for girls.

It has been found that the more painstaking teachers feel at a loss for some definite aim & standard, to guide them in their work, while at the same time they would be glad to be able to offer some evidence to the public, that their exertions have not been unsuccessful.

The Committee are of opinion that the University Local Examinations are

especially adapted to meet this deficiency, as testing thoroughness in the more elementary branches of education, which are often neglected in girls' schools, & as giving so wide a range in the Optional Subjects, as to make it quite possible for a well instructed girl to obtain a certificate, without in any way overstepping the usual boundaries of female education.

Probably a large proportion of the girls presented for examination would be preparing either to become teachers or to maintain themselves in some other calling. To such young persons, a certificate of proficiency in the ordinary subjects of education, would be of great practical value.

A collateral advantage which might be expected to result from the extension of these examinations, would be that of calling attention to the present state of middle class female education, a subject as yet, less known & considered than its great importance would seem to demand.

The Committee are anxious to make it distinctly understood that they do not ask for any alteration in the regulations laid down by the Universities, which appear to them admirably adapted to meet the exigencies of the case; their desire being simply that those teachers who may wish to submit their pupils to the test of an examination, should not be precluded from doing so. It is not expected that there would be a very

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