

AL/1791

Proposed Admission of Girls to University Local Examinations.

17, CUNNINGHAM PLACE, LONDON, N.W.

Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Sir

I am afraid we cannot  
now arrange for the examination  
of girls anywhere but in London.  
It would complicate matters  
very much if it were done  
thro' us, & we should be obliged  
to ask permission from the Syndics,  
who may not be disposed to  
give us anything more at present.  
The addition of a paper on  
teaching would involve somewhat

similar objections. It would be a divergence from the University regulations, in exact accordance with which (except in the matter of fees) this experimental exam<sup>n</sup> is to be conducted. The proposed arrangements are extremely simple. The whole thing is in the hands of the Local Secretary. He engages an extra room, which he would have been obliged to do if it had so happened that he had sixty more boys than usual to provide for. The Examination papers will come thro' him, & he

will return the girls' answers, with the boys', to the Secretary at Cambridge. We make the matter known, & the girls' names are sent in thro' me. Beyond that, our Committee does nothing except the superintendence, which I suppose is done by the Local Committees for the boys. Besides the inconvenience of introducing a new subject into the examination, there is another objection to making the teaching question too prominent. It would be likely to convey the impression that the main purpose of the test is to certify governesses.

Such an impression would tend to discourage girls who are not intending to teach from going in, & so would operate against our great object, that of raising the standard of education generally. Among the students whose names have been sent in, are ~~some~~<sup>many</sup> who have no prospect of working for their bread in any way. They simply want to have their scholarship tested, to know, on good authority, where they stand, & we should be sorry to discourage this sort of disinterested competition, by treating the certificates primarily as passports

to the profession of teaching.

The special object which Miss Porter has in view might I should think, be attained in some way thro' the College of Preceptors.

Thank you very much for your suggestions about Oxford. I will write to Mr. Griffiths & let him know how we have been getting on.

The number of candidates has quite astonished us. Already more than 70 <sup>names</sup> have been sent in, & a few others are still to come. The candidates are from Queen's College, Bedford College, some large schools calling themselves collegiate, & from various private

schools in Lincen + the neighbourhood.  
Candidates are also coming up  
from Hampshire, Somersetshire  
+ Rugby. The letters from  
schoolmistresses show an  
appreciation of the advantages  
offered, which we did not in  
the least expect from them.

A great many who cannot  
arrange to send up pupils on  
so short a notice, are eager  
to do so on a future opportunity.

It does not appear that we shall  
have any difficulty in getting  
up a good Memorial. We shall

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cont  
but however I think take any  
steps about it till we have got  
thro' this experiment.

I was much obliged to you for  
kindly sending the Ecater  
paper, containing a fuller report  
of your speech than I had  
before seen. I am very glad  
it has now appeared in the  
Guardian.

I remain

Yours very sincerely  
S. E. Davies.