

Science, whereby theoretical and practical work may be brought into relation with one another.

The above course would form an excellent preliminary course for scholarship candidates, who would then proceed to more advanced work in the various subjects so as to arrive at about the standard which is now required.

Regarding examinations for scholarships at the Universities in their twofold capacity, (1) as a means of selection, (2) as providing a guide to work at schools, there is no reason to doubt that the former function is efficiently performed by the papers as now set.

With regard to the second function, that of directing school work, if it is decided that the above preliminary course is on the right lines, it would be desirable for scholarship examiners to recognise it by :

- (a) Setting questions involving applications of the integral calculus ;
- (b) requiring work in theoretical solid geometry as above indicated ;
- (c) abolishing the restriction to "methods of pure geometry," and leaving the method employed to the judgment of the candidate ;
- (d) discouraging the cramming of book work in advanced trigonometry by not requiring candidates to reproduce long and difficult proofs (such as that needed to establish the infinite product form for the sine).

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

Board of Education,
Whitehall,
12th July 1904.

SIR,—I am directed to bring to your notice the enclosed copy of certain suggestions which have been submitted to the Board of Education by the Consultative Committee for a system of School Certificates. They have been put forward by that Committee as the result of careful and prolonged consideration after conference with representatives of the English Universities, of Associations of Teachers, and of Professional Bodies concerned with the question, and after consulting with persons specially conversant with the administration of similar examinations.

In view of the capital importance of these proposals in relation to Secondary Schools, the Board of Education are anxious to obtain an expression of the views of the Universities, and of other bodies interested, upon the important issues raised in them, and upon the solutions suggested by the Committee for consideration.

I am accordingly directed to request that you will be good enough to take such steps as may seem to you best calculated to further the objects in view, and to favour the Board not later than December 31st, 1904, or earlier should it prove possible, with the outcome of such consideration as may be accorded to the scheme.

In issuing the Report as it has been received from the Consultative Committee, it must be clearly understood that the Board refrain from the expression of any view as to the desirability or feasibility of the proposals therein contained, and that they are not committed at this stage to any action in the matter.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
ROBERT L. MORANT,
Secretary.

*To the Secretaries
of the Mathematical Association.*