

Scholarship examination, one of whom obtained a scholarship; and five passed the matriculation examination. In December the whole school was examined by the Rev W H. West, B.A., LL.B., and Mr. Macgregor, M.A., and annexed is their report on the work of the year.

The Governors cannot report too highly of the marked ability and skill in management shown by Mr Mackay, and of the patient and honest labour, diligent care, and efficient and hearty co-operation of his staff in carrying on the work of the school. The appointment of an additional master has enabled the Headmaster to give more time to general supervision of the school, greatly to its advantage. The Headmaster reports that the discipline and moral tone of the pupils have given the highest satisfaction.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.

A. DE B. BRANDON, Chairman.

2. REPORT of the EXAMINERS.

SIR,—

Wellington, 14th December 1883.

We have the honour to report that, as soon as we received your instructions to conduct the usual Christmas examinations of Wellington College, we lost no time in placing ourselves in communication with the Principal, with the view of ascertaining the precise nature and amount of the work assigned to us. We are pleased to learn that the institution has been making steady progress since last examination. There is an increase of fifty in the attendance, 201 pupils having been enrolled during the course of the session and a very marked advance in the amount of work done in the highest forms. On finding this, we thought it advisable to enter on our duties without delay, and so we examined the first four forms in arithmetic and the English branches about a month ago, leaving the higher forms and more advanced subjects to the last. In this way we have been able to go more carefully over the papers submitted to us, for the examination, except in the case of the two lowest forms, was conducted entirely in writing. During the course of it we visited the College four or five times, and spent two or three hours there on each of these occasions. We had thus an opportunity of seeing the boys at work, and were much pleased with the quiet and good order that everywhere prevailed. We beg now to submit to you the results of the examination we have just concluded. They are appended to this report. But, besides these presenting these dry tabulated results, we think it only right and proper to give a little detailed information in regard to the work of the various forms.

Form VI.—Beginning then with the Sixth and highest, we have to state that we were quite surprised at the amount of work overtaken during the year. They have done more, we have no hesitation in saying, than is done by first-year students in any of our universities. We were much afraid that a great deal of it must have been performed in a hasty and perfunctory manner; however, the papers given in by the boys have proved the contrary. They show they have a thorough mastery of the work they profess. The questions for this form, we should here state, were drawn up exactly on the lines of the New Zealand Junior Scholarship examination, and therefore may be regarded as about as crucial a test as the boys could well be subjected to. We are very glad to report that they acquitted themselves to our entire satisfaction in every subject. In these boys Mr. Mackay has a team of rare excellence, and he has evidently spared no pains on their training. Where all have done well, it seems somewhat invidious to particularize; but we cannot help making special mention of Meek and Bolton for their proficiency in all the subjects of the curriculum, of Smith for the excellence of his paper on science, of Galwey for his geometry and trigonometry, and of Treadwell for Greek.

Form V.—Of the next form we cannot speak in the same favourable terms. The papers for this form were modelled on those of the New Zealand University for matriculation, save that our mathematical papers were somewhat harder than the University's. The answering, we regret to say, did not quite come up to our anticipations. In Latin the only really excellent papers were those of Smith, Kebbell, and Morpeth, the others rising but little above mediocrity. In arithmetic and algebra, too, they completely broke down. As some set-off against this, however, they did exceedingly well in geometry, in French, and in the English subjects. This is the same form, we believe, on which we had to animadvert rather severely last year. There has been a marked change for the better, but there is yet room for improvement, and we trust that, by more determined effort, they will get a more favourable report when another examination comes round.

Form IV.—Coming to the next form, we again met with results of the most gratifying character. The boys of the upper division have acquitted themselves remarkably well in all subjects except algebra, in which, for some reason or other, a considerable number of them failed. In geometry and arithmetic, in Latin, French, and the English subjects, they have obtained splendid results. The lower division of the form does not appear to so much advantage. In Latin many of them did not attempt any translation, and only Smith, Hume, and Lyndon presented papers attaining the first degree of merit. In geometry little more than a dozen—Merlet and Coghill heading the list by a long interval—gained more than half marks. In algebra the results were a little better, but in arithmetic, in French, and in English their work was eminently satisfactory.

Form III.—In the Upper Third, as in the Upper Fourth, there is a large number of smart and intelligent boys, who did their work in a manner worthy of all praise. They obtained very high percentages in Latin, geometry, and arithmetic, and passed very fairly in algebra. In the English subjects we were thoroughly satisfied with the clearness and intelligence of their answers. The lower division of this form has also done well, and shown that they have got a firm hold of the work they have been doing. In Latin many of them failed to do justice to themselves by overlooking the sentences given for translation, and giving their time entirely to the grammatical part of the paper. They have been carefully grounded in arithmetic, and answered a really testing paper very satisfactorily. Their marks in English are also very high.

Forms I and II.—The First and Second Forms were examined *viva voce*, and also by work on their slates, and it was a source of much pleasure to us to see the readiness with which they