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# WHAT ACCREDITING MEANS

## Studio Interview With Director of Education

WE have had numerous inquiries for the text of a discussion on School Accrediting, broadcast recently by Station 2ZB. Here is an almost verbatim report, taken from the record that was made. The speakers were Dr. C. E. Beeby, Director of Education, H. C. McQueen, of the Education Department, and Mrs. Elsie Lloyd.

**M R. McQUEEN:** From 1944 onwards, the University Entrance Examination — which nearly everybody knows as matric.—will no longer exist in the form in which we have known it. Everybody with children at high school or about to enter high school needs to know what is now involved in preparing for university work, and so today Dr. Beeby, the Director of Education, will explain the main points of the new arrangements. Two of us, Mrs. Lloyd and I, will cross-examine him on your behalf.

**Dr. Beeby:** The arrangement that Mrs. Lloyd and you should ask me questions is one that I like, Mr. McQueen. I suppose I'd better begin with the really new part of the business and talk first of all about accrediting, that is to say, admission to the university without having to pass an

examination set by the university. The first point is that a pupil must be recommended by the principal of his or her school.

**Mr. McQueen:** Does that apply to all schools?

**Dr. Beeby:** No. Only to those on a list approved by the university.

### No Compulsion on Schools

**Mrs. Lloyd:** I suppose that means that the university or somebody connected with it will go over a list of all the schools and pick out the ones that have a good reputation?

**Dr. Beeby:** Well, it won't work out exactly like that. For one thing, no school can be on the list unless its governing body has approved.

**Mrs. Lloyd:** Oh! The board of governors, or whatever it's called, has to decide whether it will play ball or not.

**Mr. McQueen:** That certainly disposes of the suggestions I've heard and read that the university is compelling the schools to adopt accrediting.

**Mrs. Lloyd:** What will happen if a board of governors decides not to go on the list?

**Dr. Beeby:** Suppose I leave that over for a few minutes till I get the four main points about accrediting clear.

**Mr. McQueen:** First point—a person to be accredited must be a pupil of a school on a list approved by the university, and he (or she) must be recommended by the principal.

**Dr. Beeby:** Point two is that the principal must also certify that the pupil is to undertake university studies.

**Mr. McQueen:** What these two points amount to is that it is now the principal who has the responsibility. Previously, the examiners for matriculation had it all. If they gave a youngster sufficient marks, he or she passed, and was automatically declared fit for university work.

### A Four-year Course

**Dr. Beeby:** That puts it fairly neatly. There's a good deal I could say about that side of things, too, but I'll keep to accrediting, I think. The next point is that the pupil must have completed a course of not fewer than four years at a post-primary school.

**Mrs. Lloyd:** Four years? But many children have passed their matric. in three years in the past.

**Dr. Beeby:** That's true, although it was contrary to the spirit of the university statute, which said that the work for the Entrance examination was to be the result of four years' work.

**Mrs. Lloyd:** I see. But it did mean that a boy or girl who passed in three years could stay for a fourth year and get a Higher Leaving Certificate; and that meant a bursary for university fees, didn't it?

**Dr. Beeby:** Yes, the Education Department awarded these Higher Leaving Certificates. But it still will give bursaries to anyone who is accredited after the four years.

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