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Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Recd.

Regd.

} 1915.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O. No. 875, 12th August 1915.

University Regulations.

Sanctioning certain alterations in the — so as to remove the restrictions limiting the appearance of candidates at examinations to three times and to give greater facilities for the pass B.A.'s to become M.A.'s.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following papers :—

I

Letter—from F. Dawssuay, Esq., B.A., LL.B., Registrar, University of Madras.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
Dated—Senate House, the 17th March 1915.
No.—1500.

I have the honour, by direction of the Syndicate, to submit for the sanction of Government, under section 25 (1) of the Indian Universities Act, 1904, the following alterations in the regulations adopted by the Senate at its meeting held on the 5th March 1915 :—

- I. (i) (a) That in Regulations 203 and 204 after the words "A candidate" be inserted the words "for the B.A. (Honours) Degree."
- (b) That in Regulation 207 between the words "shall" and "be" be inserted the words "for the purposes of Regulation 193."
- (ii) That the heading of Section (V) be amended so as to read :—
"DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS"
- (iii) (a) That to Regulation 212 be added as a subheading of Section (V) the words :—
"A. With Honours"
- (b) That in Regulation 212 after the words "degree of M.A." be inserted the word "(Honours)."
- (iv) (a) That after Regulation 212 be added as a subheading of Section (V) the words :—

"B. Without Honours."

- (b) That under subheading "B. Without Honours" of Section (V) be added the following as new regulations :—

1. Graduates in Arts of this University who desire to qualify for the M.A. Degree shall be required to pass the B.A. (Honours) Degree Examination in the subjects in which they qualified for the B.A. Degree. The regulations for the B.A. (Honours) Degree Examination, other than Regulations 204 and 205, shall apply in all respects as if they were candidates for the B.A. (Honours) Degree who had passed the B.A. Degree Examination, except that they shall be allowed to appear without the recommendation from a college prescribed by Regulation 203.
2. Graduates who have qualified for the M.A. Degree under the foregoing regulation may, after a lapse of two years, proceed without further examination to the Degree of Master of Arts, on payment of a fee of Rs. 25.

- II. That Regulations 174 and 183 be rescinded and the remaining regulations renumbered, and that Regulation 194 be amended so as to read

"A candidate for the B.A. Degree Examination may at his option present himself for the whole or for either part at any one time."

In regard to these alterations I am to state, for the information of Government, that at its meeting held on the 20th November 1914, the Senate appointed a committee "to examine Regulations 174, 181, 182, 183, 187, 188, 189, 194, 203, 204, 205, 207 and 212 and to report whether any and if so what modifications in them are desirable." This Senate Committee presented its report to the Senate at the meeting of that body held on the 5th March 1915, and in accordance with that report the alterations to the regulations, to which sanction is now requested, were proposed to that body and adopted. A copy of the report of the Senate Committee is herewith enclosed for the information of Government. Paragraph 2 thereof sets forth the reasons for the alterations in the regulations numbered I above, and paragraph 4 of the same explains those for the alterations numbered II.

ENCLOSURE.

Report of the Committee of the Senate, appointed on November 20, 1914, "to examine Regulations 174, 181, 182, 183, 187, 188, 189, 194, 203, 204, 205, 207, 212, and to report whether any and if so what modifications in them are desirable."

The Committee met at the Senate House on Friday, December 18, 1914, when fifteen members were present. The remaining five members were unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting. The minutes of the meeting are appended to this report.

2. The regulations relating to the B.A. (Honours) and M.A. Degrees were first taken into consideration. The proposals which were recently before the Senate for altering these regulations intended to provide for the cases of candidates for the M.A. Degree

(i) who had originally entered upon the ordinary B.A. Degree course and subsequently wished to take the B.A. (Honours) Degree course but were owing to circumstances outside their control unable to complete the latter course within four years from passing the Intermediate Examination in Arts, as required by the regulations ;

(ii) who, after completing the B.A. (Honours) Degree course, were unable to appear for the examination within the prescribed limit of time, or failed to pass the examination and so to qualify for the B.A. (Honours) Degree and were therefore finally precluded under the regulations from proceeding to the M.A. Degree.

The proposals before the Senate were to extend the limit of time within which candidates for Honours should appear for the final examination, and to remove the restriction that "no candidate shall be permitted to undergo the complete final examination in Honours more than once." It was pointed out that the period within which undergraduate candidates for Honours must complete the course and appear for the final examination is one year longer than the minimum time prescribed by the regulations and that provision is thus made in their case for ill-health which might interfere with attendance at College and even for the withdrawal of such candidates from the final examination with the intention of again presenting themselves thereat, if during its progress they were dissatisfied with their performances ; that, in the case of graduates desirous of taking Honours no similar provision was made, so that any failure from whatever cause to complete the course and pass the examination for the B.A. Degree and thereupon to complete the course and pass the examination for the Degree in Honours in the minimum time fixed by the regulations was an absolute bar to a pass in Honours and consequently to the M.A. Degree. It was also contended that the regulation restricting candidates for the Degree in Honours to one appearance only at the final examination (even though undergraduate candidates might avail themselves once of the liberty of withdrawal before the completion of the examination) would either entail great hardship in the cases of candidates who failed at the examination (after undergoing the course at very considerable expenditure of time and money) or finally result in the lowering of the standard of the examination. The Committee, however, after careful consideration came to the conclusion that it would be altogether undesirable to make any alterations in the regulations for the B.A. (Honours) Degree examination in the direction proposed. It was agreed that the courses in Honours were primarily intended for the best students who after passing the Intermediate Examination in Arts were capable of proceeding immediately to and benefiting from these courses, and that the Degree in Honours should be reserved for such candidates as proved themselves able to pass the final examination at the first attempt on the completion of the prescribed course in an affiliated college. Even the opportunity allowed by the regulations for withdrawal from the examination during its progress was by many members of the Committee considered questionable. This concession, however, and that of allowing the ordinary three years' course to occupy four years were accepted as providing for the candidates sufficient safeguard against illness or other unforeseen contingency.

The Committee, however, in view of the very great importance which is attached in India to the possession of the M.A. Degree, considered the possibility of granting facilities to graduate students to proceed to this degree, without being considered to have taken Honours, by means of the existing courses and examinations. After considerable discussion it was agreed that students who under the existing regulations qualified for the B.A. (Honours) Degree and proceeded under Regulation 212 to the Degree of Master of Arts should be distinguished as Masters of Arts in Honours, and that provision should be made for all graduates in Arts to take the B.A. (Honours) Degree Examination at any time after a suitable two years' course in an affiliated college and so to qualify without Honours for an M.A. Degree under a regulation similar to Regulation 212. The Committee was divided in opinion as to whether graduates under this provision should be permitted to take the B.A. (Honours) Degree Examination more than once, but the large majority of the members were in favour of placing no restriction upon the number of appearances allowable.

In this connection the Committee was further of opinion that candidates for the M.A. Degree (whether in Honours or otherwise) should not be required to submit dissertations for approval.

4. The question of the number of times candidates may be permitted to appear for University examinations was then brought before the Committee. Though the rules restricting candidates to three appearances only were recognized to be a protection of unfit students from a hopeless and undesirable waste of time and money, attention was directed to the fact that the exercise of the power vested in the Syndicate by the regulations of accepting examinations of other Universities as equivalent to the corresponding examinations of this University, practically results, in the case of those students who are able to afford the cost of continuing their education in other Universities, in an unlimited extension of opportunities of obtaining the desired qualification, which are denied by the regulations to students not so favourably situated. On these and other considerations the Committee finally came to the conclusion that such restrictions may be altogether removed. The practical difficulty of arranging for the proper scrutiny in the Registrar's office of applications for examinations decided the Committee against the proposals made to the Senate for increasing to a higher fixed limit than three the number of appearances allowable.

7. In accordance with the above the following resolutions will be placed before the Senate for acceptance :—

A. (i) (a) That in Regulations 203 and 204 *after* the words "A candidate" *be inserted* the words "for the B.A. (Honours) Degree."

(b) That in Regulation 207 *between* the words "shall" and "be" *be inserted* the words "for the purposes of Regulation 193."

(ii) That the heading of Section (V) *be amended* so as to read :—

"DEGREES OF MASTER OF ARTS."

(iii) (a) That to Regulation 212 *be added* as a subheading of Section (V) the words :—

"A. With Honours."

(b) That in Regulation 212 *after* the words "degree of M.A." *be inserted* the word "(Honours)."

(iv) (a) That *after* Regulation 212 *be added* as a subheading of Section (V) the words :—

"B. Without Honours."

(b) That under subheading "B. Without Honours" of Section (V) *be added* the following as new regulations :—

1. Graduates in Arts of this University who desire to qualify for the M.A. Degree shall be required to pass the B.A. (Honours) Degree Examination in the subjects in which they qualified for the B.A. Degree. The Regulations for the B.A. (Honours) Degree Examination, other than Regulations 204 and 205, shall apply in all respects as if they were candidates for the B.A. (Honours) Degree who had passed the B.A. Degree Examination, except that they shall be allowed to appear without the recommendation from a college prescribed by Regulation 203.

2. Graduates who have qualified for the M.A. Degree under the foregoing regulation may, after a lapse of two years, proceed without further examination to the Degree of Master of Arts, on payment of a fee of Rs. 25.

C. That Regulations 174 and 183 *be rescinded* and the remaining regulations renumbered, and that Regulation 194 *be amended* so as to read

"A candidate for the B.A. Degree Examination may at his option present himself for the whole or for either part at any one time."

II

Memorandum No. 1023-2, Educational, dated 15th June 1915.

With reference to the letter from the Registrar, University of Madras, No. 1500, dated the 17th March 1915, submitting certain alterations in the University regulations relating to the several examinations, the Syndicate is requested to be so good as to furnish Government with a statement showing the actual proportion of students who, in consequence of Regulations 174, 183 and 194, qualified themselves under the

several examinations conducted by other Universities and accepted by the University of Madras as equivalent to its corresponding examinations, in each of the years since the introduction of the revised regulations approved in 1906.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Registrar, University of Madras.

III

Letter—from F. DEWARUR, Esq., B.A., LL.B., Registrar, University of Madras.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
Dated—Senate House, the 18th June 1915.
No.—3468.

In reply to Memorandum No. 1023-2, Educational, dated 15th June 1915, I have the honour to state that no record is attempted or could possibly be maintained in this office of the future career of failed students at the examinations of this University. I regret therefore that I am unable to furnish the statement requested showing the proportion of students who having failed three times at examinations of this University have subsequently qualified in similar examinations in other Universities. With the recent exception of the University of Calcutta, the Universities of India do not seem to require that students joining them from other Universities should obtain any special permission from the University they leave to transfer themselves. There is, therefore, no means of ascertaining how many Madras students actually do transfer themselves to other Universities. The number is probably considerable, as frequent applications are made to this office for the written permission to join the Calcutta University which the Registrar of that University now seems to require. Such permission is granted by the University of Madras as a matter of course.

2. The first Matriculation Examination under the new regulations was held in December 1909, the next in April 1911. In 1910, however, the University accepted the various school-leaving certificate schemes and provided for the matriculation of students with satisfactory certificates without the test of the Matriculation examination which as a result has declined to the extent that this year the number of candidates was 31 only. It is therefore probable that few, if any, candidates for the Matriculation Examination under the new regulations have appeared and failed thereat three times. In all probability transfer of Matriculation students to other Universities has been influenced most by the refusal of this University to allow candidates to appear after private study even after previous failure, a course which is not invariably adopted in other Universities. Now that attendance at recognized schools or affiliated colleges is compulsory for all students desirous of appearing at the Arts examinations of this University, the Syndicate invariably grants recognition to the qualifying examinations of other Universities, leaving to the Principals of Colleges for decision the question of the fitness of each applicant for admission to the University classes. The number of Matriculates of other Universities admitted to the Intermediate classes of this University since 1911-12 is as follows :—

1911-12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
1912-13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
1913-14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
1914-15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

There is no record, however, as to how many of these, if any, are candidates who have failed thrice at the Matriculation Examination of this University.

3. The Intermediate Examination in Arts was held for the first time in the year 1911. The examination of 1913 was therefore the first in which candidates could appear for the third and last time (with the exception of those who had previously failed in the old First Examination in Arts who, under Regulation 421, would appear for the Intermediate Examination for the last time in 1912). There is no record to show how many of these candidates have transferred themselves to other Universities, or how many after such transfer have been successful in the corresponding examinations of those Universities. I have been personally informed by the Registrar of Calcutta University that the number of transfers to that University is large. The

cases of such candidates who have been successful in other Universities and have been permitted to return and engage in study for the degree course in this University now number *eight*, but it is possible that a further number of such successful students continue their studies in the University of their adoption.

4. No case has yet come to the notice of this office of a candidate having failed three times in the B.A. Degree Examination of this University and subsequently successfully graduating in another University. The new B.A. Degree Examination was however held for the first time in 1913 only.

5. I have to request that the Government will issue orders on the proposals for amending the regulations as early as possible. A large number of students are awaiting the decision on this matter before taking steps to transfer themselves to other Universities if they are not again allowed to sit, or to obtain seats in colleges (which are now re-opening) if the restriction on the number of appearances is to be removed.

Order—No. 875, Educational, dated the 12th August 1915.

Under section 25, sub-section (i), of the Indian Universities Act, 1904, the Government sanction the alterations in the University regulations proposed in the earlier of the two letters read above.

(True Extract.)

C. G. TODHUNTER,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Registrar, University of Madras.
" Director of Public Instruction.
Editors' Table (paper I and Order only).

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 875, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
THE 12TH AUGUST 1915.

[SUBJECT.—*Amendment of University Regulations.*]

From the Registrar, University of Madras, dated the 17th March 1915, No. 1500.

Submitted that the Director of Public Instruction may be requested u.o. to state whether the proposed alterations may be accepted.

P.R.—24-3-15.

T.K.—24-3-15.

E. A. HARVEY—28-3-15

To the Director of Public Instruction.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The proposed alteration may be accepted.

H. S. DUNCAN—12-4-15.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

A draft order is submitted for approval.

P.R.—19-4-15.

B.G.—21-4-15.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—28-4-15

Several of the changes proposed appear to be by no means changes of routine, and I desire that their precise effect and the reasons for and against their adoption may be more fully examined than has been done in the foregoing notes.

2. It is proposed, for instance, to permit candidates for University examinations to appear as often as they wish, and the reasons given for doing so in paragraph 4 of the Committee's report appear to require examination. It is stated that a certain number of students qualify in other Universities and thereby enjoy an unfair advantage, but it is not clear why and how these opportunities are unlimited; and even if they are, it remains to be seen what is the actual proportion of students who take advantage of these accommodating Universities. If the proportion is a large one, having regard to the total number of those who appear, there may be something to be said for the suggested change, although even then it should be considered whether the remedy is not rather for the Madras University to refuse to recognize the examinations of those Universities which are unduly lenient. If the proportion is small, why should the Madras University alter a salutary regulation for such a reason?

3. Again, as to the proposed alteration in regulation 212: I understand that the effect of the existing regulations is to restrict the M.A. degree to those who have passed the B.A. with Honours. I should like to know the reasons for this restriction; it should be considered whether there is sufficient ground now for setting them aside and whether the value of the present M.A. degree of Madras is not largely due to this restriction. It would seem that under the new rules a man who does not take the trouble to read for the Honours from the outset and takes the ordinary B.A. degree may still appear for the B.A. Honours examination, and moreover will be able to do so as often as he pleases, after any interval of time which may suit him and without producing any certificates of conduct or diligence in study from any responsible authority. It is true that he will not after passing be entitled to write himself

M.A. with Honours, but he will still call himself M.A. and in practice few people are able or have the time to examine, with reference to University calendars or records, whether a given person is an M.A. with Honours or without; there thus seems to be a danger that the value of the existing M.A. and B.A. Honours degrees of the Madras University will suffer.

P[ENTLAND]—11-5-15.

Paragraph 2 of His Excellency's note.—Under the present regulations a candidate is allowed only three chances for passing an examination. If he fails to pass, say, the Intermediate examination in spite of three chances he cannot secure admission into the B.A. class in any Arts College. If, however, he proceeds to another Indian University in which he can appear for the Intermediate examination any number of times, and passes it, he can come here and get admission into an Arts College, as the Madras University recognizes the Intermediate examination of other Universities in India. Thus the candidate has unlimited opportunity for passing the Intermediate examination and can evade the rules of the Madras University prohibiting him to appear for the Intermediate examination for more than three times. Of course, the Madras University can refuse to recognize the Intermediate examination of other Universities; but if it does so it will not be acting in accordance with the recommendation of the Indian Universities Commission for the mutual recognition of corresponding examinations. Further

Paragraph 174 of the report of the Indian Universities Commission.

the Commission remarked that the Madras University was the most exclusive in regard to this matter.

Information as to the proportion of students who take advantage of such accommodating Universities is not available in the Secretariat and may be called for from the Syndicate.

2. *Paragraph 3 of His Excellency's note.*—The Indian Universities Commission recommended only two degrees for the Arts course—the B.A. degree and the M.A. degree, and apparently in their opinion the M.A. degree should take the place of the B.A. (Honours) degree in the Universities where such Honours degree already existed. The Madras University originally had no Honours degree at all, but the existing regulations provide for the B.A. degree, B.A. Honours degree and M.A. degree; and in so far as the M.A. degree is to be conferred only on those who had previously taken the B.A. Honours degree, it appears to be in accordance with the recommendation of the Indian Universities Commission. Under the proposed regulations there will be the ordinary M.A. degree and the Honours M.A. degree in place of one M.A. degree. Both the M.A. Honours degree man and the M.A. ordinary degree man have to pass the B.A. Honours examination and may thus be expected to possess fairly equal educational attainments; and in this view it may not much matter, even if the M.A. ordinary degree man is mistaken for the M.A. Honours degree man. But those who may have to employ them or otherwise deal with them will no doubt satisfy themselves whether they are ordinary M.A.'s or Honours M.A.'s. It is observed that the risk of confounding the ordinary M.A. man with an Honours M.A. referred to by His Excellency, exists already in the case of B.A. degree as in that case also there is the ordinary Pass degree and the Honours degree. In time people are likely to get used to distinguish the suffixes to the M.A. degrees as they have done in the case of B.A.

3. If His Excellency should not be inclined to approve the proposed creation of the new M.A. ordinary degree, it would be desirable at least to permit the student possessing the B.A. Pass degree to take the B.A. Honours degree within five years from the date of his passing the Intermediate examination instead of four years as at present. He has now to undergo a two years' course after taking the Pass degree and then appear for the B.A. Honours examination. Thus four years would have expired after his passing the Intermediate examination and there will be only one chance for his appearing for the Honours examination. If through illness or some other cause he is prevented from appearing for the examination, he has to give up the B.A. Honours degree altogether. On the other hand, the student proceeding direct to the Honours degree after passing the Intermediate examination has got an

additional year to meet the chance of his falling ill, etc., as he has got only a three years' course to undergo and can pass the B.A. Honours examination within four years after his passing the Intermediate examination.

* Issued as Memorandum 1028-2, Educational, 15th June 1915.

4. A draft memorandum * is submitted for approval.

B.G.—12-6-15.

C.R.—12-6-15.

Will the Director of Public Instruction please note again on the whole question? The information needed at A is being called for from the University.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—15-6-15.

Paragraph 2 of His Excellency's note.—The relaxation of the present limitation in the number of times that a candidate may appear for an examination has reference only to the Matriculation, Intermediate, Pass B.A. and Pass M.A. examinations. In order to obtain a Pass degree it is customary in Universities outside India to permit candidates to appear as often as they please, restrictions being placed only on the taking of an Honours degree, to the examinations for which candidates are usually permitted to submit themselves only once. Paragraph 1 of the Secretariat note discusses the other points raised in this paragraph of His Excellency's note.

Paragraph 3 of His Excellency's note.—The reputation that the Madras M.A. degree has is based upon the reputation of those graduates who obtained their M.A. degrees under the regulations that were in force prior to 1906. For this examination candidates were permitted to enter any number of times. The main reason for restricting the M.A. degree to those who have passed the B.A. with Honours was, I believe, in order to differentiate clearly between the B.A. Pass and the B.A. Honours man. I doubt whether it was then (i.e., in 1906) when the present regulations came into force, fully recognised that there would be a fairly general demand from Pass graduates for the privilege that they formerly enjoyed of being able to enter for the M.A. degree sooner or later in their career. By allowing all Pass graduates the opportunity of appearing for the M.A. degree an incentive would be given for further study and the general demand of the educated public would be satisfied.

For the further examination required it is proposed to accept the B.A. (Honours) examination and to differentiate now between the true Honours man who is able to take the Honours course immediately on completion of his Intermediate course and to appear for the Honours examination at the end of it, or at all events within four years of his passing the Intermediate examination, and the true pass man who is able to pass the B.A. (Honours) examination only after the expiry of more than four years from the date of his passing the Intermediate examination, by calling the former an M.A. (Honours) man and the latter only an M.A. man. In regard to the remark "and without producing any certificate of conduct or diligence in study from any responsible authority," I would submit that all Pass graduates who desire to present themselves for the M.A. examination must undergo a further two years' college course and then produce certificates from the head of an affiliated college to the effect that their progress and conduct have been satisfactory during a two years' course which is preparatory for that examination. After having once undergone this two years' course they are not required to attend a college again and produce certificates of conduct and progress.

H. S. DUNCAN—21-7-15.

From the Registrar, University of Madras, dated the 18th June 1915, No. 3463.

The proposals of the University dealt with in this file are two, namely,—

(i) to remove the present restriction limiting the appearance of candidates at the examinations to three times only, and

(ii) to amend regulation 212 of the University regulations, which lays down how the M.A. degree should be secured, so as to give greater facilities for the Pass B.A.'s to become M.A.'s candidate proceeding direct to the Honours B.A. course and then becoming M.A.'s being designated "M.A. with Honours" and the others proceeding thereto after a preliminary pass degree being designated "M.A. without Honours".

2. In his note, dated the 11th May 1915, His Excellency called for further information regarding both the proposals. Information regarding the first point is furnished in the office-note on pages 2 and 3 and the Hon'ble Mr. Duncan's note on page 3 *ante*, as well as in the Registrar's letter. The University is not able to give the actual proportion of candidates failed in the local University examinations, who had qualified themselves by the examinations of other Universities, but the Registrar says that the number of students transferring themselves to other Universities is probably considerable and in this view, so far as the Intermediate examination is concerned, he is reported to be supported by the Registrar of the Calcutta University. It is also pointed out that since the examinations under the new regulations, there have not been yet many opportunities for failed candidates to qualify by other University examinations, but reference is made to the growing tendency in that direction.

As regards the point whether the examinations of the other Universities are unduly lenient, the fact that the Syndicate has been freely accepting the examinations of those Universities may be taken to support the view that those examinations are not much below the local standard. Impliedly, those failed candidates could have passed the local examinations themselves if they had been given further opportunities.

It is also observed that not in very many cases candidates can afford by circumstances, financial and otherwise, to proceed to other Universities.

3. In respect of the second point, the information required by His Excellency will be found in paragraph 2 on pages 2 and 3 and in Mr. Duncan's note on page 3 *supra*.

P.R.—22-7-15.

C.R.—23-7-15.

On the general question of repeated admission to examinations, we have, as His Excellency has pointed out, to choose between the alternatives of allowing candidates to appear as often as they please or of refusing to recognize the examinations of other Universities.

The Director defends the granting of unlimited opportunity by the analogy of European Universities. I submit that this hardly applies. A pass by a University standard is much less valued in Europe, and the cases in which students go on trying for an examination are rare, while the students who do so can ordinarily afford it. In India, on the other hand, the failed Matriculate, who has ruined his health and spent all his money, is already an object of pity and a tool of evil-doers. If he is to be allowed to continue failing, his condition will become worse.

The case for refusing to recognize the examinations of other Universities seems to be much stronger. Opportunities to qualify at these Universities are unlimited because, while practically all of them allow students to appear for the same examination as many times as they please, none appear to make any enquiry as to a student's previous failures, so that, even if the Madras rule were in force elsewhere, a student would be able to obtain three times as many opportunities of passing as there were Universities.

2. As to the actual proportion of students who take advantage of these facilities, statistics are not available, but it is evident that the question is a serious one from the statement in the Registrar's letter that "a large number of students are awaiting the decision on this matter before taking steps to transfer themselves to other Universities if they are not again allowed to sit, or to obtain seats in colleges (which are now reopening) if the restriction as to the number of appearances is to be removed."

The Universities Commission recommended that the conditions of acceptance of the examinations of another University should be—

(1) that the standards should be approximately equal, and

(2) that a candidate who desired to transfer himself from one University to another should be required to show some reason for his application, such as *bona fide* change of residence.

As to whether the first of these conditions is fulfilled we have no information. It is quite obvious that the second is not. The Punjab regulations make provision for the admission of students of other Universities at all stages.

3. As regards the M.A. degree, what the Universities Commission recommended was that there should be a separate examination, open only to graduates, for this degree, after a further course of study, and that this alone should rank as an Honours degree. The other Universities have all adopted this recommendation in the main. The present Madras arrangement, under which a student who has passed only the Intermediate examination may go up at once for the B.A. (Honours), which qualifies for the M.A., is not a compliance with this recommendation. The proposal of the Syndicate to make the B.A. (Honours), taken within a limited time, qualify for the M.A. (Honours), and to add as a Pass M.A. degree, the B.A. (Honours) taken at any later time involves a still further departure from the proposals of the Commission.

4. Incidentally, and without giving reasons, the Committee state their opinion that there should be no dissertation included in the scheme for the M.A. degree, whether Honours or Pass. I think this is to be regretted. Under the old scheme the dissertation was the portion of the examination that gave most room for display of originality.

5. As His Excellency has pointed out, the University will have no guarantee of conduct or diligence in study in the case of the Pass M.A. candidate in respect of the period between close of his college course and his appearance for the examination. Meanwhile the candidate for Honours will still only be permitted to appear "on the recommendation of the college to which he belongs," a rule which gives a wide opening for misinterpretation.

6. The changes proposed are thus far-reaching and it seems doubtful if they have been examined in all their aspects by the Senate. One of the most important of these aspects is the relation the Madras examinations will bear to those of the other Indian Universities if and when the new scheme is introduced. The Universities Commission recommended that the standards of corresponding examinations in different Universities should be equalized as far as possible. There is no indication in the papers that any attempt has been made to come into line with other Universities in respect of the matters now in question. On the other hand, the proposals make for divergence. It seems desirable in these circumstances to take the advice of the

G.O. 772, Public, 18th May 1915.

Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, one of whose chief functions is to promote uniformity, on the whole scheme before going any further. An alternative would be to ask the Senate to reconsider their scheme with reference to the proposals of the Commission and the regulations of other Indian Universities.

Meanwhile, as the Senate are anxious for early orders, they might be asked to continue existing arrangements for another year.

C. G. TODHUNTER—29-7-15.

When in Madras last week, I discussed this fully with the Vice-Chancellor, who endorses strongly the proposals of the Senate. These may now be sanctioned.

P[ENTLAND]—10-8-15.

The draft order already in the file is submitted for approval.

P.R.—11-8-15.

C.R.—11-8-15.

It has already been approved. Issue.

C.G.T.—12-8-15.

[G.O. No. 875, Educational, dated the 12th August 1915.]

ORDINARY.

PRESS SLIP.

PREFERENCE.

17 AUGUST 1915 URGENT (a).

Sect. II—38—2-15.

DEPARTMENT.

Current No., dated 1915.

G.O. No. 275, dated 12-8-1915.

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P. Pannick
Referencer.
..... Clerk.

..Supdt.

Sundt

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

University Regulations

Sanctioning certain alterations in the — so as to remove the restrictions limiting to appearance of candidates at examinations to three times and to give greater facilities for the pass B.A.'s to become M.A's.

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Sectt. II-10 (a)-12-1-16.

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ps

Under Section 25, Sub-Section

(i), of the Indian Universities Act, 1904 the Govt. sanction the alterations in the University regulations proposed in the ^(earlier of the two) letters read above.

PA 134
19.4.15 21.4.15

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