

OUR WORK.

THE P.U.S. LEAVING CERTIFICATE.

Letters on the subject of a Leaving Certificate for the P.U.S. which appeared in the October, November and December numbers (1918) of the PARENTS' REVIEW are not only instructive and interesting reading, but also they contain a mandate!

The writers have considered the subject of this Certificate from several points of view and are well informed, both as to Leaving Certificates in general and to P.U.S. work in particular. We must certainly let that "roof flag" float in triumph because, as one writer shews convincingly, the changed estimate of a woman's career requires that a girl must not only have attainments, but that these must be tested by the due certificate. It is no longer to be assumed that a woman will marry, and all educated women, married or single, will be required to do paid or unpaid social work, and in order to do this she must have definite qualifications duly recognised. There is no longer any room for the amateur.

It is gratifying that the several writers are agreed in setting a high value on P.U.S. work, especially on that of Forms V. and VI., as well as in their wish that their daughters should go through the liberal educational course which three years' work in these forms affords. Perhaps they are right again in supposing that a P.U.S. Leaving Certificate would be widely recognised, for the "Liberal Education for All" movement has already become national and our Leaving Certificate, as representing the ideas which the movement stands for, should have peculiar value.

No doubt the girl who has completed her period in Form VI. should be able to wave the "roof tree flag of triumph" in the shape of a P.U.S. Certificate. Assuredly she is entitled to do so, for we may believe that she has become a cultivated citizen of wide information, sound judgment, practical knowledge of affairs and many interests.

Therefore a P.U.S. Certificate will be granted to a candidate at the end of her school career upon certain conditions.

Her final examination papers will be submitted to the Inspector of the House of Education and must shew very satisfactory work in a given number of subjects, including two Languages and Mathematics.

This P.U.S. Leaving Certificate should prove an "open Sesame" to various kinds of social work.

But its value is limited for a girl who wishes to utilise her education, that is, to make it a stepping stone to a professional career or to a University. I have corresponded with the Heads of the Women's Colleges to ascertain

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if our Certificate might be accepted as exempting the holder from the entrance examination to the College in question. The subject of qualifying examinations has been under discussion during the last few years and I gather that had we been earlier in the field our claims might have been considered. As it is the question is finally closed. Some half-dozen examinations are accepted and the Delegacy are anxious to reduce the present list rather than to add others.

Much sympathy has been shewn with our work by a number of the Heads of Colleges and particular interest in the programmes of Forms V. and VI. One lady suggested that we could

take Responsions or London Matriculation "in our stride." This is precisely what we propose to do.

In order that a girl may get the full advantage of the course of reading in Form VI. she should do the work of that form until her 17th birthday. Then, still in connection with the P.U.S., she should work for Matriculation during her last year (17–18), as a girl would work from any school. The successful candidate would have the P.U.S. Leaving Certificate in addition to her Matriculation certificate. It is desirable that a candidate for Matriculation should throughout her course keep up her P.U.S. work in Latin and Mathematics.

We know that it is possible for a girl to do the special work required by Matriculation in six months at the end of her P.U.S. course, so that the last year should give ample time for preparing the special work required.

Probably these two possibilities will meet every case and that no girl will leave the P.U.S. without "waving her flag."

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