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REPORTS OF THE
CONFERENCES

ON

UNIFORM ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

HELD AT

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 1st, 1896

HENRY MORSE STEPHENS

LATIN

SETH LOW, LL.D.,

President of Columbia University.

DEAR SIR:

We have the honor to submit herewith the recommendations of the Conference on Uniform Requirements in Latin for admission to College, recently held under the auspices of Columbia University.

The Conference met on the 1st and on the 22d of February, and again, after a further interchange of views by correspondence, on the 23d of May. At each of the three meetings all the members were present, namely,—Professors C. E. Bennett, of Cornell University; Henry Gibbons, of the University of Pennsylvania; E. P. Morris, of Yale; H. T. Peck, of Columbia; C. L. Smith, of Harvard, and J. H. Westcott, of Princeton; and Messrs. C. P. F. Bancroft, of Phillips Academy, Andover; W. C. Collar, of the Roxbury Latin School; Wm. Gallagher, of Williston Seminary; D. A. Kennedy, Dearborn-Morgan School, Orange; H. U. King, School for Boys, Stamford, and G. M. Whicher, of the Packer Institute, Brooklyn.

The recommendations relating to the preparatory course (I), and to the examinations for admission (II), together with the accompanying Notes (1-3), received the unanimous assent of the Conference. The recommendation in the last paragraph, relating to pass and honor examinations, was adopted by a majority vote.

For the Conference,

CLEMENT L. SMITH,

Chairman.

GEORGE M. WHICHER,

Secretary

June 5, 1896.

ADOPTED MAY 23, 1896.

The Conference recommends:

I

That the colleges unite in defining the preparatory course on which their examinations will be based, as follows:

1. The course should include—

(a) Easy reading, included in or following a suitable introductory book ("Latin Lessons"), amounting to from 30 to 40 pages;*

(b) Nepos and Cæsar, 90 to 120 pages;

(c) Cicero, the speech on the Manilian Law, the four against Catiline, and either the speech for Archias or the Fourteenth Philippic, with additional speeches at the option of the teacher, 90 to 120 pages in all.

(a) Vergil, Æneid I.–VI., with additional selections from Ovid and Vergil, at the option of the teacher, 6,000 to 8,000 verses in all.

2. Throughout the preparatory course pupils should be constantly guided in proper methods of reading and trained to read the Latin understandingly, as Latin, before undertaking to render it into idiomatic English. There should be constant practice in reading aloud, with due expression, and in hearing the language read.

3. After the completion of the introductory lessons, systematic study of grammar, with practice in writing Latin should be maintained throughout the course.

II

That the examinations for admission to college include the following tests:

1. The translation of passages selected from the portions of Cicero and Vergil specified in I. 1. c and d, with

* The pages of the more recent Teubner text editions are taken as a standard in this statement.

questions designed to test the candidate's understanding of the passages, and also questions on the subject matter.

- 2 *a*. The translation at sight of passages adapted to the proficiency of candidates who have studied Latin in a systematic course of at least five lessons a week for three years, the passages to be selected from Nepos, Cæsar, and Ovid, or from other simple prose and verse.
- 2 *b*. The translation at sight of passages adapted to the proficiency of candidates who have studied Latin in a course of at least five lessons a week for one year beyond the requirement of 2*a*, the passages to be selected from Cicero's speeches, Vergil, and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, or from other prose and verse of no greater difficulty.

In connection with the passages set for translation at sight (2*a* and 2*b*), questions may be asked on ordinary forms, constructions, and idioms, and on prosody, and also questions designed to test the candidate's understanding of the passages set.

3. A thorough examination on a prescribed portion of Cicero's speeches (for three years, beginning with 1898, the 2d, 3d and 4th speeches against Catiline), directed to testing the candidate's mastery of the forms, constructions, and idioms of the language; the test to consist in part of writing simple Latin prose, involving the use of such words, constructions, and idioms only as occur in the speeches prescribed.
4. The translation into Latin prose of a passage of connected English narrative, the passage set for translation being based on some portion of the prose works specified in I. 1, and limited to the subject matter of those works.

NOTE 1.—It is recommended that any college which prefers to confine its test in the reading of Latin authors to translation at sight, and, therefore, omits II. 1, or to confine its

test in Cicero and Vergil to the translation of passages from the prescribed selections, and, therefore, omits II. 2*b*, should nevertheless unite with the other colleges in defining the preparatory course on which its examinations will be based, as provided in I.

NOTE 2.—The prescribed passages specified in I. *c* and *d* and II. 3, may be changed from time to time by agreement among the colleges.

NOTE 3.—It is recommended that this scheme go into effect in June, 1898.

The Conference further recommends: That in addition to the entrance or pass examination, colleges offer a severer test, to consist of translation of passages at sight into English and into Latin, to be called an honor examination, and to be optional for any candidate who has taken the regular entrance examination.

GREEK

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONFERENCE.

I—GRAMMAR. A thorough knowledge of the common forms, idioms and constructions and of the general grammatical principles of Attic prose Greek, to be tested by an examination on a prescribed portion of Xenophon (for the next five years Xenophon's *Anabasis*, Books I and II). The test is to consist in part of questions, in part of simple sentences set for translation into Greek; it may include also translation from Greek into English.

II—ATTIC PROSE AT SIGHT. Ability to translate at sight a passage adapted to the proficiency of those who have read not less than 130 Teubner pages of Attic prose. The candidate is expected to show in his translation accurate knowledge of the forms and structure of the language, and an intelligent comprehension of the whole passage.

III—HOMER. Ability to translate a passage from some prescribed portion of the Homeric poems (for the next three years, Iliad, Book I and Book II, vv. 1-493), and to answer questions designed to test the candidate's understanding of the passage, as well as questions upon poetic forms, constructions, and prosody.

IV—HOMER AT SIGHT. Ability to translate at sight a passage of ordinary difficulty from the Iliad or Odyssey, with the aid of a vocabulary of the less usual words.

V—COMPOSITION. Ability to translate into Attic prose a passage of connected English narrative, employing the more common words and constructions of some prescribed text. (For the next five years a candidate will be allowed his choice between a passage based on Xenophon's Anabasis, Books I and II, and a passage based on Xenophon's Cyropædia, Book I, Chaps. I to V, inclusive.)

NOTE 1.—The work necessary for I and II, at least, can be done in two years, and may be offered for preliminary examinations.

NOTE 2.—The requirement for Composition (V) is here included among the subjects of the third year, because the Conference believes that it is well for a candidate to keep up his study of Attic prose during that year. But this shall not prevent a candidate, when properly certified by his teacher, from presenting composition as a preliminary subject at the end of the second year.

NOTE 3.—The prescribed passages required by I, III and V may be arranged from time to time by agreement between the colleges.

NOTE 4.—This scheme shall go into effect in June, 1898.

NOTE 5.—Any college which accepts this scheme of requirements for admission may, if it deems it necessary, set also an alternative examination for any part of it.

HISTORY

I—*Resolved*, That the colleges be requested to include in their requirements for admission a choice of subjects out of the following topics:

- (1) The history of Greece to the death of Alexander, with due reference to Greek life, literature and art.
- (2) The history of Rome to the accession of Commodus, with due reference to literature and government.

- (3) English History, with due reference to social and political development.
- (4) American History, with the elements of Civil Government. It is expected that the study of American History will be such as to show the development and origin of the institutions of our own country; that it will, therefore, include the colonial beginnings; and that it will deal with the period of discovery and early settlement sufficiently to show the relations of peoples on the American continent, and the meaning of the struggle for mastery.

Any two of these topics to constitute a required subject for entrance to college.

The Conference expects that for any one of the four topics one year's work of at least three periods a week, or an equivalent, will be necessary.

In the judgment of the Conference it is very desirable that Greek and Roman history be offered as a part of the preparation of every candidate. If any college finds it necessary to specify the particular subjects to be required, it is recommended that these two topics be named.

II—*Resolved*, That in addition to the examination, satisfactory written work done in the secondary school, and certified by the teacher, should constitute a considerable part of the evidence of proficiency required by the college. It is suggested that this requirement may be met by the presentation of a note book or bound collection of notes.

III—*Resolved*, That such written work should include practice in some of the following:

- (a) Notes and digests of the pupil's reading outside the text-books.
- (b) Written recitations requiring the use of judgment and the application of elementary principles.
- (c) Written parallels between historical characters or periods.
- (d) Brief investigations of topics limited in scope, prepared outside the class-room, and including some use of original material where available.

- (e) Historical maps or charts, made from printed data and comparison of existing maps, and showing movements of exploration, migration or conquest, territorial changes or social phenomena.

IV—*Resolved*, That the examinations in history for entrance to college ought to be so framed as to require comparison and the use of judgment on the pupil's part, rather than the mere use of memory. The examinations should presuppose the use of good text-books, collateral reading, and practice in written work. Geographical knowledge should be tested by requiring the location of places and movements on an outline map.

V—*Resolved*, That the colleges (in cases where they allow history as an advanced option) be requested to accept any one of the four alternatives which follow, either as additional preparation for entrance, or for advanced standing. For each of the alternatives will be necessary two years' work of at least three periods a week, or an equivalent.

1. A course of Greek and Roman History for those only who have offered English History and American History as an elementary subject.
2. A course in English History and American History for those who have offered Greek and Roman History as an elementary subject.
3. A course in the History of Europe from the Germanic invasions to the beginning of the seventeenth century.
4. A year's study of any of the elementary fields not already offered as an elementary subject; combined with a year's detailed study of a limited period within that field.

GEORGE B. ADAMS,
Chairman.

WILSON FARRAND,
Secretary.

MATHEMATICS

The conference on uniform entrance requirements in Mathematics met, immediately after the general meeting of all the conferences, in Room 40, Hamilton Hall, Columbia College, at 11 o'clock.

The conference organized by the election of Professor Van Amringe, of Columbia, as Chairman, and Mr. A. H. Cutler, of the Cutler School, New York, as Secretary.

On calling the roll the following conferees were found to be present:

Harvard—Prof. Byerly.

Princeton—Prof. Fine.

Pennsylvania—Prof. Doolittle.

Columbia—Prof. Van Amringe.

Cornell—Prof. Wait.

W. F. Bradbury, Latin School, Cambridge, Mass.

A. H. Cutler, Cutler School, New York City.

Fletcher Durell, Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, N. J.

J. G. Estill, Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn.

S. A. Farrand, Newark Academy, Newark, N. J.

Leigh R. Hunt, Free Academy, Corning, N. Y.

A letter was received from Prof. Phillips, of Yale, regretting that illness confined him at home and compelled his absence from the conference.

The first topic considered was the entrance requirement in Arithmetic. After a full discussion, participated in by all the members of the conference present, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a formal examination in Arithmetic as a separate requirement for entrance be dispensed with.

A knowledge of the metric system and the ability to reckon accurately are to be presupposed.

The entrance requirement in Algebra was then considered. After full discussion, it was unanimously

Resolved, That the entrance requirements in Algebra shall be as follows:

ALGEBRA.—Factors, common divisors and multiples, fractions, equations of the first degree with one or more unknown quantities, involution including the binomial theorem for positive entire exponents, evolution, the doctrine of exponents, radicals and equations involving radicals, quadratic equations of one or two unknown quantities and equations solved like quadratics, ratio and proportion, and putting problems into equations.

It was further unanimously agreed that where the subject is divided into preliminary and final examination, that the preliminary examination shall include and be confined to the following topics: Factors, common divisors and multiples, fractions, equations of the first degree with one or more unknown quantities, evolution, the doctrine of exponents, radicals; and that the remaining subjects named shall be required in the final examination.

The subject of Geometry was then considered, and, after full discussion, it was unanimously

Resolved, That the requirement in Geometry be as follows:

PLANE GEOMETRY: Including the solution of simple original exercises and numerical problems.

It is understood by the conference that the entrance requirements above noted are the minimum requirements in Mathematics, on which it is hoped that the Faculties of all the Colleges concerned will agree, and that any of the Colleges is to be free to make such additional requirements as may seem best to its Faculty.

The conference desired it to be particularly noted in the minutes of its proceedings that each one of its conclusions was adopted, on roll-call, by the affirmative vote of the eleven conferees present.

It was ordered that Professor Phillips of Yale, whose absence was deeply regretted by the conference, be invited to record his vote upon each of the several topics noted in the minutes.

The Chairman and the Secretary of the conference were appointed a committee to formulate the conclusions of the

conference for report to President Low, and with authority to call a further meeting of the conference, should one in their judgment be necessary.

Resolutions of thanks to President Low and Columbia College for calling the conference and providing for its convenience and comfort, and to the Chairman and the Secretary of the conference, were adopted; and then, on motion, the conference adjourned subject to the call of the Committee.

ARTHUR H. CUTLER,
Secretary.

J. H. VAN AMRINGE,
Chairman.

A copy of the foregoing minutes was sent to Professor Andrew W. Phillips, of Yale University, who was absent from the meeting of the conference on account of illness. He wrote to the Chairman under date of February 7th, 1896, as follows: "I have received a copy of the proceedings of your conference held at Columbia College on the 1st inst., and have read the resolutions adopted with much satisfaction. I take pleasure in recording my vote in the affirmative on each one of these resolutions."

J. H. VAN AMRINGE.

March 13, 1896.

FRENCH

FEBRUARY 27, 1896.

HON. SETH LOW, LL.D., President of Columbia College:

DEAR SIR: The members of the French Conference, assembled in Columbia College on February 1st, discussed very fully the means of unifying the present entrance requirements at the six conferring colleges, and finally adopted by a *unanimous vote* each paragraph of the subjoined elementary and advanced requirements; the requirements were also adopted as a whole by the unanimous vote of the members present.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELEMENTARY FRENCH.

- A. The translation at sight of ordinary Nineteenth Century Prose.

It is important that the passages set be rendered into clear and idiomatic English. It is believed that the power of translating at sight ordinary nineteenth century prose can be acquired by reading not less than four hundred duodecimo pages from the works of at least three different authors. Not more than one-half of this amount ought to be from works of fiction. This number of pages is to include not only prepared work, but all sight reading done in class.

- B. The translation from English into French of sentences or of a short connected passage to test the candidate's familiarity with Elementary Grammar.

Elementary grammar is understood to include the conjugations of regular verbs, of the more frequent irregular verbs, such as aller, envoyer, tenir, pouvoir, voir, vouloir, dire, savoir, faire, and those belonging to the classes represented by ouvrir, dormir, connaitre, conduire, and craindre; the forms and positions of personal pronouns, the uses of other pronouns and of possessive, demonstrative, and interrogative adjectives; the inflection of nouns and adjectives for gender and number, except rare cases; the uses of articles, and the partitive constructions.

It was the unanimous opinion of the conferees that the elementary grammar requirements represented the minimum of French grammar that ought to be required.

It was unanimously agreed that the wording of the requirements did not *preclude* the asking of direct grammar questions on the part of any institution that wished to enforce such a requirement.

NOTE.—Pronunciation should be carefully taught and pupils be trained to some extent to hear and understand spoken French. The writing of French from dictation is recommended as a useful exercise.

ADVANCED REQUIREMENTS.

A. The translation at sight of standard French.

It is important that the passages set be rendered into clear and idiomatic English. It is believed that the necessary proficiency in translation at sight can be acquired by reading, in addition to the elementary work, not less than six hundred duodecimo pages of prose and verse from the writings of at least four standard authors. A considerable part of the amount read should be carefully translated into idiomatic English.

B. The translation into French of a connected passage of English prose.

Candidates will be expected to show a thorough knowledge of accidence and familiarity with the essentials of French syntax, especially the uses of tenses, modes, prepositions and conjunctions.

The conference, after fully discussing the matter of prescribing or even suggesting definite text books or texts for both the Elementary and the Advanced requirements, were unanimously opposed to such prescription or suggestion; it was felt that it might be left to the French department at each college to answer at its discretion written requests for information on text books.

NOTE.—Careful attention should be paid to pronunciation and the use of spoken French.

All of which is respectfully submitted to you with the endorsement of the undersigned members of the French Conference:

ADOLPHE COHN, Columbia, Chairman.

JULIUS SACHS, New York, Secretary.

F. DE SUMICHRAST, Harvard.

L. BOISSE, New York.

JULES LUQUIENS, Yale.

C. H. GRANDGENT Boston.

GEORGE M. HARPER, Princeton.

JOHN MEIGS, Pottstown, Pa.

HUGO A. RENNERT, Univ. of

Pennsylvania.

G. W. ROLLINS, Boston.

T. F. CRANE, Cornell.

J. H. B. SPIERS, Philadelphia.

GERMAN

MARCH 4TH, 1896.

President SETH LOW, LL.D.,
Columbia University.

DEAR SIR:—

The members of the German Conference held at Columbia University, February 1st, 1896, after full discussion of the means of unifying the present entrance requirements at the six colleges represented, adopted by a unanimous vote each paragraph of the subjoined elementary and advanced requirements, and have since unanimously adopted the requirements as a whole.

IN ELEMENTARY GERMAN.—(a) The rudiments of grammar, and especially these topics: the declension of articles, adjectives, pronouns, and such nouns as are readily classified; the conjugation of weak and of the more usual strong verbs; the commoner prepositions; the simpler uses of the modal auxiliaries; the elementary rules of syntax and word order. The proficiency of the applicant may be tested by questions on the above topics and by the translation into German of simple English sentences. (b) Translation at sight of a passage of easy prose containing no rare words. It is believed that the requisite facility can be acquired by reading not less than two hundred duodecimo pages of simple German.

Practice in pronunciation, in writing German from dictation and in the use of simple German phrases in the classroom is recommended.

Preparation for the elementary requirement need not call for more than one year's instruction of five periods per week.

IN ADVANCED GERMAN.—(a) More advanced grammar. In addition to a thorough knowledge of accidence, of the elements of word-formation, and of the principal uses of prepositions and conjunctions, the candidate must be familiar with the essentials of German syntax, and particularly with the uses of modal auxiliaries and the subjunctive and infinitive moods. The proficiency of the applicant may be tested by

questions on these topics, and by the translation into German of easy connected English prose. (b) Translation at sight of ordinary German. It is believed that the requisite facility can be acquired by reading, in addition to the amount mentioned under Elementary German, at least five hundred pages of classical and contemporary prose and poetry. It is recommended that not less than one-half of this reading be selected from the works of Lessing, Schiller and Goethe.

It is recommended that the candidate acquire the ability to follow a recitation conducted in German and to answer in that language questions asked by the instructor.

Preparation for the advanced requirement need not call for more than two additional years of instruction.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HORATIO S. WHITE, *Chairman.*

WM. H. CARPENTER, *Secretary.*

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