

GENERAL

The Board of Examiners met in Sydney on the 17th and 18th of August and, by resolution of General Council, members of the Board attended, as observers, the meeting of General Council held in Sydney on the 19th and 20th of August.

As in previous news sheets, this issue will report in detail decisions made at the meeting which were within the Board's own competence and will note matters on which the Board made recommendations to Council. Where these recommendations have been adopted by Council as the basis of new regulations for the Association, the intent of the new regulations will be explained.

MATTERS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD

Number of questions to be answered by candidates

The Board decided that, commencing with the 1965 examinations, the number of questions to be answered by candidates will be as follows:—

Papers 1, 2, 3: **Six** questions to be answered out of **ten**

Papers 4, 5, 6, 7: **Five** questions to be answered out of **nine**

Papers 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13: **Four** questions to be answered out of **nine**

Papers 14, 15, 16: **Five** questions to be answered out of **nine**

The intention of this alteration to existing practice is to allow candidates to display an increasing depth of knowledge and a maturing capacity for thought as they proceed from the elementary to the advanced papers of the examination.

Statement of the objects of individual papers

In furtherance of its policy of giving as much assistance and advice as possible to candidates, the Board has prepared a brief statement of what it considers to be the objects of each of the sixteen Registration papers. This statement, which should be of interest to Associate Examiners as well as candidates, will appear as part of the General Advice to Candidates in the next issue of the **Handbook**.

Meetings With Tutors and Associate Examiners

The Board resolved to arrange a meeting with tutors engaged in preparing candidates for the Examinations within the various Schools and Training Centres attached to libraries and education institutions and/or sponsored by Branches and Sections. This meeting will take place in conjunction with the Association's Conference at Canberra next year and should provide for an informal and informative exchange of views.

A meeting of all Associate Examiners will also be convened, for the Canberra Conference, following the meeting held in Hobart last year, which the Board, at least, found to be of considerable value.

Amendments to Reading Lists

Certain amendments, proposed by the Special Libraries Section to the reading list for Paper 5C were adopted by the Board, subject to the checking of certain details. In the same way, amended reading lists were approved for papers 14, 15 and 16.

Draft examination papers for 1964

The Board completed its painstaking review of the examination papers for the 1964 examinations. Members of the Board would like to record their appreciation of the co-operation of Associate Examiners in meeting what must often seem to be querulous and pettifogging objections raised to the first draft papers. The Board is sure that Associate Examiners appreciate both the need for and the value of such a careful central review of papers.

Time limit for Diploma Theses

The Board resolved that candidates for the Diploma be informed that normally the Board expects their thesis or bibliography to be such that it can be completed in three years and that it will require candidates to report progress after two years. Special cases will always be considered on their merits.

MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD

The Board appointed a sub-committee to consider the *elaboration of the syllabus for paper 5*, taking into account the suggestions made by the Special Libraries Section with regard to Paper 5C.

A sub-committee was also set up to report to the Board on detailed proposals for a *revised examination syllabus on school and children's libraries* submitted by the Children's Libraries Section. Unfortunately, the document containing these proposals arrived far too late to be considered in detail by the Board at its meeting.

The Board has under review the general question of *exemptions* in whole or in part from the Association's examination requirements as a result of possession of qualifications from other bodies as also the question of *licentiate-ships* and other implications of the Royal Charter. It has had referred to it by a Branch a request for a *statement defining library activities* in terms of professional work and library clerical work; for a syllabus that might be used in the training of library clerks; and for suggestions as to where such training might best be carried out. As instructed by Council, it will also consider whether to recommend any amendment to the provisions of *Regulation A21* so as to allow for the case of candidates experiencing a clash of University and Association examinations.

MATTERS RECOMMENDED TO GENERAL COUNCIL

The General Council took the action noted on the following points, on which recommendations had been submitted by the Board:—

Limitation of number of papers to be taken at one examination

A new regulation lifts the maximum number of papers that can be taken at one time from four to five, but existing restrictions aimed at completing papers 1-3 as early as possible remain.

Preliminary material at present appearing under the heading "examinations" in the Handbook

New regulations embody that portion of this material which is definitive but which to date is not specifically included in the Regulations.

Regulations relating to applicants for examination

The existing regulation A1 is modified and a new regulation inserted, which together have the following effect:—

- (a) Candidates to whom only "provisional matriculation" in any of its various forms has been granted by Universities will not be able in future to enter for the Association's examination until their matriculation is "confirmed."
- (b) Candidates, however, who are 25 years of age or more, who are employed in library work and who have reached a standard of secondary education approved by the Board may be allowed to enrol for papers 1, 2 and 3, but will not be allowed to proceed further unless they pass these three papers in no more than two successive sittings.

Put generally, the effect of these changes is to restrict candidates, other than older candidates already in library employment, to those who have "unqualified" matriculation, but, at the same time, allow these older candidates a chance to prove their worth and their determination to enter the profession.

The Board wants to stress very seriously the need for all intending candidates to *read the actual regulations* and not to rely on their vague impression of this news sheet item, or worse still, upon someone else's even vaguer reporting of it.

Standards of accreditation of library schools

The General Council has adopted a set of standards proposed by the Board, as a basis on which the Board could recommend that the award of a school of librarianship within an institution of tertiary education be considered as conferring eligibility for exemption from the Association's examination requirements.

These standards, which go beyond the actual curriculum of the school and cover also its staffing and facilities, are to be published in the *Australian Library Journal* and will provide the Association with a much-needed basis of reference, in view of the possible acceleration in development of schools of librarianship.

Reduction in cost of securing two certificates

An amended regulation will reduce the extra cost of the Certificate of Associateship to members, other than Foundation Associates, who already hold the Registration Certificate. Such members will be required to pay only £1 extra to secure the second certificate, providing, of course, they have satisfied all the other requirements and have been duly elected to the distinction of Associateship.

This amendment is aimed to meet the cases of two specific groups of members:

- (a) Those who would normally have been elected Foundation Associates but who, for one reason or another, were unfinancial at the operative date;
- (b) members newly qualifying for the Associateship who wish also to take out their Registration Certificate.

Those persons who have already paid two full fees will be refunded the balance, by special resolution of Council.

Amended syllabus for Archives papers

The General Council has approved an amended syllabus for Papers 14, 15 and 16.

Amendments to Reference books for paper 3

Approval has been given for the addition of four new titles to the list of reference books to be studied by candidates for paper 3, and for the deletion of two titles from it.

Preparation of text books in librarianship

The General Council endorsed the Boards recommendation that, while it would be delighted to see the appearance of texts in librarianship by Australians, it did not wish to see a series of text books written specifically for the Association's examination papers.

Membership of Council by Chairman of the Board

The General Council rejected a suggestion that provision be made for the Chairman of the Board to be a member of the Executive Committee of the Association, but resolved to adopt the principle that the Chairman be made a full member of Council. The Constitution Committee is to report on ways of achieving this result.

Failure of negotiations to establish a school of librarianship at the University of Melbourne

On the recommendation of the Board, Council resolved that the Executive investigate a report that the University of Melbourne had rejected an offer from the Myer Foundation, of financial assistance to establish a School of Librarianship. The Executive was authorised to express the Association's keen disappointment at this development.

GENERAL

The Board wishes to emphasise that this news sheet is only a means, and at the same time is the only means, of keeping members informed of developments which affect them very vitally. It urges members to read the news sheet and recommends strongly that the bodies to which it is sent should do their utmost to bring it before members. At the same time it reminds members that general statements of the kind of which such a publication must largely consist can be misleading.

There is no substitute for the Association's Regulations as they appear in the Handbook and all candidates for examination must be certain they understand these.

Harrison Bryan, Chairman.