

should be cut down to a minimum. Latin names for the petals in the pea flower might surely go; it is far more important to understand the pumping action whereby the pollen, held on the stylar brush, is forced from the keel on to the under-surface of the bee's abdomen. Question 4 produced the weakest answers, yet it required mere observation. Only five in eighteen said they saw a nectary on the buttercup petal, and but two of these showed it in their drawings.

One final suggestion. Questions 2 and 3 in the practical work called for entirely different treatment in the answers. Yet it is to be feared that both were dealt with alike: a hasty glance at the specimen to recognize it, and an account of what the candidate thought the examiner ought to want to know about it. This is by no means always what the examiner asked for.

*Higher Biology (Part B, Theory).*

Question 1 was answered very imperfectly by a majority of the candidates. A number of candidates stated that metabolism consisted in the building up of protoplasm; others proceeding to the opposite extreme asserted that metabolism consisted in the breaking down of protoplasm. Few seemed to possess a clear grasp of fact that expenditure of mechanical and thermal energy on the part of a living organism implies the release of chemical potential energy by oxidations, and that the consequent destruction of constituents of tissue necessitates the replacement of the substances consumed. Several candidates confused metabolism with digestion, and others asserted that animals assimilate nitrogen in the form of nitrates. Very few of the candidates displayed any clear conception of the metabolic interrelationships of plants and animals.

The remaining questions, with a few disastrous exceptions, were on the whole excellently answered.

*Higher English Essay.*

There was a great difference in the quality of the work submitted to the examiner. Two of the essays were excellent, and six others were very good, but apart from these the standard of work was below what was to be expected. For errors in grammar and spelling the remedy is greater care and the habit of revision, but style can be improved only by observant study of the best books; and there is very little evidence of this.