

E.1.

AL/1785

Proposed Admission of Girls to University Local Examinations.

17, CUNNINGHAM PLACE, LONDON, N.W.

Jan. 30th 1863.

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge with many thanks, your account of the Oxford Examinations, in which I find much that is interesting & useful to know. I had proposed to myself to make extracts from it, but I find there would be so much to transcribe that I am tempted to avail myself of your kind permission to retain the book.

I am sure there is great force
in what you say as to the importance
of concentrating our efforts on
a single point, & for that reason
I believe the Committee will be
disposed to try first for the
individual diploma only. We should
be very glad to get inspection
after, if it could be properly
managed.

Your suggestion that in case our
application is refused, we might
attempt something thro' individual
examiners, is an idea which
I think the Committee will find

it worth while to consider.
Where the Local Committees &
the Examiners are favourable,
some subsequent examination
for girls might be managed,
in which the papers & the
standard should be the same.
These are the points on which
we feel it most necessary to
insist. Exclusively female tests
have no well known, recognised
value. For some years, Certificates
have been given at Queen's College,
but (speaking generally) nobody
knows how much scholarship they
represent, & it is even asserted

that they are given unfairly.
This may be a calumny, but the
mere fact that such an imputation
is current, makes them comparatively
valueless. In the present state of
women's education, it is in the
nature of things that exclusively
female certificates can have very
little value. All they can attest
is that the holders of them are
a little less superficially taught
than other girls.

We think it has been already
shown that our ideas will march,
by the Society of Art. The cases
are almost precisely parallel.

E.2.

AL/1785 (cont)

Women were not at first admitted to those Examinations. The Council made the concession on the application of a local Board, & they have had no reason to regret it.

I have been told that the real hindrance at the Universities is the question of dignity. I see you had the same obstacle to contend with. It is one which it is very difficult to deal with, as it cannot be met by argument.

With many thanks for your kind & valuable advice,

I remain,

Yours truly

S. E. Davies.