



Freshman Failures at Universities

Institute of Citizenship,
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I The Subject.

Univ. - problem - 1st yr.
students in Eng. - unread
(Medes and Persians)

To-day a very real problem - in S.A.
and in other countries.
Different aspects: academic, personal,
national. However, only academic aspect.

II The Size of the Problem.

Many failures - concern at this.
We must remember: not the same in
all universities; and not the same
in all fields. Nevertheless: high failure
Blame liberally distributed: school, ^{teacher}
univ., student, professor ... all
blame educ. system.
Therefore: many "solutions".

III "Solutions" | Univ. + "develop mind: Belfast, railways,

- additional school year.
- Pre-acad. year
[practical problems - cost]
- Longer acad. year (now only 8 months).
[criticism]
- age qualification (19 yrs.)
- Minimum of 60% at matric, or
at least certain subjects.
- Differentiated courses - depending
on G.O. 3, 4 or 5 yrs.
- First academic year at least 1 1/2 yrs.
[cost and other practical difficulties]
- The State - more money - however

IV Difficult, complex Problem

Simplification -
soccer - atheist

will ^{solution} not be solved by any
one - or all these solutions.
One of the most complicated of
university problems: human
beings - pupils, teachers, students,
professors.
Therefore no simple recipe.
Present system also has its merits.

V What can we do?

No Delphian oracle!

Imperative that our system be continually studied and inspected, and changed where necessary - ~~to~~ for the benefit of the greatest possible number, without frustration for the brilliant students.

However: best possible use of the system we have: ~~parents, teachers~~ parents, teachers, professors (U.S.), students.

VI Conclusion.

Let us all realize: 1st year most important year.

Close and hearty cooperation.
Young men and women of
intellectual ability and
force of character
James Adams: Two
educations.
