

brains, and there seems to be a desire to make up by the catchiness of some of them for the defects of others. We recommend to the examiner a diligent study of the junior and senior matriculation papers of Toronto University. The Central Committee is notorious enough already without him trying to make it more so. The English Grammar and History papers are well constructed, but they are altogether too long for the time allowed. This is an error Mr. Marling is sometimes guilty of, and it is one that produces most uncomfortable and unchristian feelings in the minds of candidates. If the papers

count over the maximum no objection can be taken; but no notice has been given to this effect. We may remark in conclusion that it is a rather curious circumstance that the regulations in regard to the percentage of marks required for a C had not been made when the examination took place. This is an omission that should not have occurred. Having accustomed candidates at these examinations to a full account of what they have to expect, the Department should have arranged and published the details relating to the different grades of First Class certificates.

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

THE ESSENTIALS OF ELEMENTARY CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL PHYSICS, for the assistance of High School Students and Intermediate Candidates, compiled and collated by A. W. Aytoun Findlay, Science Master, Brantford Collegiate Institute, etc. Toronto: W. Warwick & Son, Publishers, 1880.

WE cannot say that we are favourably impressed with the appearance of this contribution to our school literature. The desire on the part of the author and his publishers to furnish candidates for Departmental Examinations with a cheap manual has led them into errors that will detract from its value as an educational appliance. Its genesis "in notes collected at various times from many sources" as the preface tells us, sufficiently accounts for the conglomerate character of the matter, and there is an evident and well meant desire to give as much value as possible for the money, which has led to overcrowding and defective mechanical execution. The literary form of the work is, under the circumstances, highly creditable; but in a manual which covers so much ground means should have been taken by difference of typography or in some other way to distinguish the important from the unimportant. In view of the requirements of our school examinations objection, therefore, may fairly be taken to the scope of the work: it is too comprehensive for the use of candidates for Second Class Certificates, and it does not meet the wants of candidates for First Class. In treat-

ing also of the different parts of the subject there is not that uniformity of method which is essential in a text book. To illustrate; in discussing oxygen, there is given on p. 66 a series of experiments, but this valuable feature nowhere else occurs in the same desirable form. The arrangement of the matter is also, in our opinion, very defective. To use a printer's term, the pages are too "fat," and that help which proper paragraphing can give the reader is here withheld.

A few of the errors that occur in this volume are evidently typographical. For example on page 151 "phosphorus acid" occurs for "phosphorous acid;" but there are others that are not attributable to the printer. If the derivations of the names of the elements are to be given at all, they ought to be both explicit and accurate. The term, antimony, for instance, is better derived from *anti* and *moine*, as if "monk's bane," than from *anti* and *monos*. To mention the Latin *sulphurium* for sulphur is not very satisfactory instruction in Etymology. To have given *sal*, salt, and *pur*, fire, with a little more explanation, would have placed the matter in a much clearer light. Again, on pp. 100 and 101 the reader finds the expression "Carbonic" employed for either "carbon dioxide," "carbonic anhydride," or "carbonic acid gas;" also on pp. 134- 5- 6- and -7, "sulphurous acid" for "sulphur dioxide," or "sulphurous anhydride;" and on p. 154