

## Notes and Comments.

WE call the attention of readers to the first item in our "Educational Intelligence" columns, viz., "Music in the Schools."

THE late Forbes McHardy, of Toronto, who left behind him an estate valued at \$72,091, bequeathed \$500 to Queen's college, to be added to the scholarship founded by him.

WE find that we were misinformed when we heard that Mr. R. Harcourt, M.A., M. P.P., applied for the position of second inspector of the town of Niagara Falls, as was stated in our issue of the 17th March.

W. H. HOUSTON, M.A., Librarian of the Ontario Government, has been appointed by the Minister of Education conductor of the Teachers' Institute, to be held in the Public School at Bothwell, on the 12th and 13th of May next.

A PETITION is in circulation and being largely signed by the ratepayers asking the Minister of Education to amend the school law whereby pupils who have been convicted of criminal offences will not be permitted to attend the public schools.

HALIFAX has almost decided to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee by the establishment of an art school. A large meeting there on the 15th March endorsed the scheme. The St. John 'adies' project for celebrating the occasion by the erection of a fine building for the public library and for the literary and natural history societies, was approved by a meeting called to consider the scheme.

A LINDSAY exchange says:—"Lindsay school board wants a teacher, and offers \$250 per annum. That is about the same as ordinary servant girls earn. However, teachers are gradually getting higher salaries, and we hope soon Lindsay's will be at least \$300 or \$325 for the lowest grade. Let the board of education here give the salary question, especially for the junior grades, serious consideration."

PEOPLE feel, says the Montreal *Star*, that if there is a really good science school at Toronto, one will not be needed at Kingston; and that until there is a really good one at Toronto it would not be well to spend the provincial funds in establishing a second school of science at Kingston. In a word the feeling in Ontario is decidedly in favour of strengthening the Toronto School rather than establishing a second weak school at Kingston.

THE committee appointed by the Senate of the University of Toronto to consider the proposal to establish a new medical school met on the 14th inst., at the residence of Dr. Adam Wright. There was an extended discussion generally favourable to the formation of a school of medicine, which will have more intimate relations with the University of

Toronto than any of the schools now existing, and a sub-committee was appointed to formulate a scheme.

WE think the Government might, with profit to all concerned, apply a portion of the seven millions [surplus] to the better endowment of University College, to the improvement of primary education, to the establishment of technical education for artisans, and to the dissemination amongst the farmers of a knowledge of scientific agriculture. Bismarck said in the Reichstag the other day that money invested in enlightenment yields cent. per cent. when everything else fails; and he is a good judge of such things.—*The Mail*.

THE following students at the School of Practical Science waited upon the Attorney-General and the minister of Education:—Messrs. J. C. Burns, A. L. McCulloch, G. H. Richardson, J. F. Apsey, J. H. Fawell, W. H. Shillinglaw, J. L. Leask, and C. D. Mather. Mr. Burns, for the deputation, said there was a necessity for additions to the staff of professors. The professor of civil engineering was very much overworked, having as many as fourteen subjects in which to give instruction. Were it not that he was a man of extraordinary ability and energy he would not be able to give the students any course at all. Assistant professors were needed. Increased accommodation was also necessary. The ministers promised consideration.

AT the meeting held recently at Hamilton, Ont., to talk over university federation as it affects the Methodists, Rev. Dr. Potts presented the case for aiding federation. Mr. Sanford said Toronto was moving very slowly in raising the money she had promised for buildings, and Rev. Dr. Burns told Education Secretary Potts that he had better go back to Toronto and finish working up the subscriptions promised there before making a tour of the province. He had no doubt, however, that the necessary money would be raised by the Methodist Church. Dr. Potts admitted that if the matter stood only between Hamilton and Toronto, Hamilton deserved to have the Methodist college. But the conference had decided in favour of Toronto, and there was no alternative but to raise the funds necessary for building and endowment.

THE petition of the Queen's University Endowment Association, for a recognition of the work done by Queen's in any measure relating to University confederation, sets forth the following amongst its reasons for the granting of that request. "That since the first establishment of University College, Toronto, the total number of students who have graduated in arts (B.A. and M.A.) is 909, and that since the first establishment of Queen's University the total number of students who have graduated in arts (B.A.

and M.A.) is 498; That according to the calendars for the present session, issued by the authorities of both institutions, the total number of graduates of all kinds from first to last, are as follows, viz.:—Graduated at University College, Toronto, total 1,041, Graduated at Queen's University, Kingston, total 887. "That these statistics obtained from official sources in both cases, will convey to your Honourable House a correct idea of the important work being done for the community by the two Universities at Toronto and Kingston.

ONE of the greatest mistakes made in our present system of educating children is, says Dr. William A. Hammond, that they are given too many subjects to study at once. The power of dissociation—that is, of keeping one subject entirely clear of another subject—is not great in the minds of children. They therefore have a mass of confused ideas when they have got through with their daily tasks, which it is always difficult, and sometimes impossible, for them to separate one from the other. It is true that some children are, from the beginning, able to concentrate the attention first on one subject and then on another; but these are quite exceptional instances, and the brain is very likely to be strained in the effort. It is as though a person should spend six hours in looking alternately through a telescope and a microscope, giving a few minutes to each. It would certainly be found at the end of that time that the sight had been injured for the time being, at least, and if the practice should be continued there can be no doubt that permanent impairment of vision would be the result. The effort to form and maintain clear and forcible ideas of several subjects at once is a difficult matter, even for adults. It has been found by experience that it is advantageous to reduce the number of branches of medical science which students are required to study simultaneously. Several of the better class of medical colleges in this country a few years ago cut down the list of from eight or ten to less than half the number, and extended the period of study from two sessions of four months each to three of from six to eight months. I speak from personal experience when I say that I am aware of the most lamentable results of the "cramming" process in medical students. I have been a teacher in medical schools for nearly twenty-five years. In the course of my examinations it has often happened that I have put a question in one branch of medicine to a candidate for graduation and have received an answer in an entirely different branch. How much better it would be for the future man or woman if the boy or girl, instead of being required to learn a dozen different subjects at once, should have the number reduced to two, or at most three.