

life which they have commenced. It too often happens, also, that some self-asserting individual with more brass than brains is allowed, either by the good nature or the diffidence of the meeting, to monopolize precious time with crudities that need only to be scanned to be rejected as unworthy of a moment's serious notice. Of course, if the Chairman has regard to the important business of the meeting, and acts wisely, he will put a sudden stop to the effusions of such a one.

While these assemblies give opportunity to the teachers of a district to exchange their views and experience, there is no provision at present for giving them the benefit of any advancement in the educational world except what can be secured by the desultory lectures of men, some of whom are not always disinterested in the cause of education.

We see no way of effectively meeting this difficulty but by carrying out the plan proposed by Dr. Ryerson, of having a skilled and enlightened educationist to visit the various conventions and co-operate with the chairman and managing committee in conducting the proceedings of the meetings. Such a one could give information on the newest methods of instruction, could afford explanation of the most recent theories of education, and could be the medium of spreading more accurate knowledge of the principles of education. He might, in addition, be entrusted with the duty of inspecting the work done in County Model Schools, and might thus become a supervisor of the Public School education of the Province. It may be objected to that the appointment of such an officer would entail additional expense, but this need not be the case. An impression begins to prevail that two High School Inspectors are enough to do the amount of work, some of it rather perfunctory, that is at present being done in our High Schools. Why might not the expense incurred in the employment of a third Inspector, who is believed to be unnecessary, be devoted to paying an efficient officer for supervising general Public School work throughout the country, assisting at the

business of County Conventions, and inspecting Model Schools? We are quite sure that, with a proper appointment, the money that is at present wasted in the payment of a third High School Inspector would, if employed as we suggest, be well spent. Until some such officer is appointed, a good deal of the work done at our local meetings will fail in having its desired effect, and thoughtful teachers will continue to go away as they often have done with the disagreeable reflection that the time at the meeting has not been spent with the utmost profit to themselves or to others.

MONOTONY OF COMMENCEMENT DAY.

THE agony is over at the schools and colleges. The commencements are finished, and the graduates are graduated. The pretty pieces, many of which have for weeks or months engrossed the attention of their composers, have been spoken, and both the speakers and their admiring friends and relatives have gone home in a state of profound satisfaction. The educational establishments, from university down to kindergarten, have proudly pointed to their finished material publicly displayed on commencement day. On the strength of its superior character they have intimated to the public that they will be pleased to enjoy a continuance of the patronage which has resulted in such delightful accomplishments as have been witnessed.

All this is pretty well, as far as it goes. Many of our educational institutions have done good deeds for the young persons committed to their care. In many cases foundations have been laid for solid learning. The young persons who in coming years will build on these foundations will become educated men and women. Those who stop short and consider that they have finished their education will, twenty or thirty years hence, be little better than dunces. All that the best school or college can do is to give the student a start in life. In this view the use of the word "commencement" is wisely chosen, for when a boy or girl leaves school