

istration of the Preparatory High School created that we feel the only difficulty he will have to contend with in his new position will arise from the shadow of a great name. It will be no easy matter to fill the chair vacated by Dr. Robins.

Translations and Appointments.—The vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Arthy from the Head mastership of the Preparatory High School has been filled by the translation of Mr. A. N. Shewan, M.A., from the High School, Mr. Wellington Dixon, B.A., being appointed to take his place. Mr. R. J. Elliott has been appointed head of the Dorchester Street School, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Haney. Mr. J. Ferguson has been appointed second master of the Royal Arthur School.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Hygienic.—An interesting paper has recently been published by Berlin on the influence upon the eyes and the spines of school children which so simple a matter as the position of the copy-book in writing may exert. It is based upon the report of a commission appointed to investigate the effect of slanting writing in the schools of Wurtemberg. In writing or drawing with straight lines the visual axes move, by preference, in two general directions, vertical and horizontal, because in looking upwards or downwards, or to either side, their paths are straight, while in diagonal movements they describe a curve. It was discovered that 93 per cent. of the children who were under observation made the down-strokes in a direction nearly at right angles with that of the base line—i. e., the line connecting the centres of the rotation of the two eyes and forming a triangle with the visual axis in convergence. This is done with the least strain when the copy-book is tilted towards the left; when the child is compelled to write with the book parallel to the edge of the desk, he brings the base line perpendicular to the down-strokes by turning head towards the right and twisting his spine. This contortion brings the eyes nearer to the page, and the left eye nearer to it than the right. In a discussion on this subject at the meeting of the Ophthalmic Society, at Heidelberg, Laqueur and Manz favoured the slanting system of writing with an oblique position of the book, on the ground that it throws the work more on the flexor muscles of the forearm, which are naturally stronger than the extensors, and Berlin dwelt upon the fact that this system admits of greater rapidity of execution. The surface of the common slate being shiny, and presenting an insufficient contrast with the letters, necessitates a near approach of the eyes and consequent excessive accommodation and convergence—the most important factors in the development of myopia—and Cohn has therefore caused artificial white slates and special pencils to be