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The Educational Journal.

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A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, AND THE
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Editorial Notes.

IN answer to repeated requests for the publication of the literature selections for entrance examinations in December, we wish to explain that the selections, that is to say those of them which are to be new, have not yet been announced by the Education Department. On inquiry we are informed that the announcement will be made in July or August. We will publish the list as soon as it is known. As the inquirers are, no doubt, aware, a part of the selections will be the same as those for the July examinations, but these are indicated on the old lists.

"SUMMER TOURS" is the title of a neatly printed pamphlet of more than two hundred pages, issued by the Passenger Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It contains detailed information in regard to the many attractive tours now offered by this great railway to summer tourists. The descriptions of the course and scenery of the various routes are very full and copiously illustrated. A copy can be had free on application to any agent of the company, or by post, on enclosing a two-cent stamp to W. R. Callaway, District Passenger Agent's office, 118 King street west, Toronto.

AN anonymous critic, probably a teacher, writes to a prominent daily criticising in scathing terms the staff and work of the Toronto Normal School. We hear from time to time of a good deal of fault-finding of a similar underground kind. It is a pity, if there is any basis for unfavorable criticism, that no one has the courage to come out with it in a manly, above-board fashion. Neither the Minister of Education nor any one else can have any interest in maintaining inefficient Normal Schools. If there are serious deficiencies it would be a service to the Department and to the public to have them exposed. If not, these anonymous charges are reprehensible and cowardly.

THE two new books issued by the publishers of the JOURNAL are fast becoming favorites with the teachers. They are *Practical Problems* (700 exercises) in *Arithmetic*, and *One Hundred Lessons* (400 exercises) in *English Composition*. These are distinctively teachers' books, designed to assist by furnishing properly graded exercises in their respective subjects. Why a teacher should spend his time and waste his energies in devising problems and exercises in these subjects, when he can have books giving him all he requires for

so small a figure, it would be difficult to explain. A teacher's time and effort are too valuable for such waste. Send 25 cents to Grip Printing & Publishing Co., 26 Front street west, Toronto, and get a copy of either of these books. Or, to be well furnished for exercises in these subjects, order them both.

School Work and Play for June 21st., will be mailed on Monday. This will be the last issue of the paper before the holidays, and when the children get back to work they will find their welcome visitor as full of interest and amusement as ever. A large increase to the list of subscribers is expected as the result of the competition for prizes for canvassing; and the publishers trust that their friends of the teaching profession are giving the canvassers all the assistance and encouragement in their power. It is believed that the results of this holiday canvass will determine whether such a paper as *School Work and Play* is to be made a financial success. Everybody admits that it is worthy of patronage, its readers unreservedly declare that they like it, and the only remaining question is as to the number of such readers it shall have.

A VOLUMINOUS discussion has been going on in the columns of the *Walkerton Herald* and *Kincardine Review* on the question of the relative merits of the Public schools of the two places, as indicated by the results of the entrance examinations. Some of the articles have been sent us for comment. We confess that we attach little importance to the results of these examinations as tests of the respective merits of—we were about to say "rival" schools, but we hope there is no real rivalry, however much of friendly emulation there may be in such cases—neighboring schools. There are many modifying circumstances that cannot be taken into the account in such comparisons, and many excellencies and defects of the utmost importance in schools that cannot be shown by the results of any examination. We are inclined to think that the too prevalent custom of estimating the merits of schools by the entrance examinations, or any other examinations, is injurious. In England, where, under the old code, payment by result of the Departmental examinations has long been in vogue, the voice of almost the whole fraternity of educators has been lifted up against the system. In Canada the entrance examinations serve a good and necessary end, but their value for purposes of comparison is easily over-estimated.