

PUBLIC OPINION.

OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS.—

While we recognize that there may be honest differences of opinion on all subjects of inquiry, and that we should be tolerant of those who differ from us, it does not follow that all opinions are entitled to equal respect. Each is to be judged by itself and on its own merits. We may, and indeed should, dispute the opinion that we believe to be erroneous, that out of the debate we may reach the truth, whatever it may be. But this does not imply intolerance exhibited toward those who hold the wrong opinion, especially when we know they are conscientious and have done some honest thinking on the subject. We should rather welcome those who dispute with us because they honestly disagree with us, than the so-called friends who play upon our vanity by pretending to agree with all we say.—*Minneapolis Times.*

The *Normal Index* has the following sensible words upon professional ethics, which is a subject too often neglected by some classes of teachers: "A lawyer will not criticise the conduct of another member of the bar outside of the court room. Neither do ministers condemn one another. If a mistake has been made, they are the last to believe evil reports. They uphold rather than condemn, until convinced of the guilt of the accused party. No physician will try to injure the practice of another physician. Professional courtesy is found everywhere except among teachers. All seem anxious to rise, though many others may be pulled down. It is no wonder that they are not respected as members of an honored profession should be. But few work for the profession. Each one is looking out for himself. If by unjustly criticising the work of another he can secure a good position, it is all right."

GEOGRAPHY.

The town of Deseronto, in Canada, where there are several large lumber mills, is partially lighted by gas made from sawdust. The sawdust is charged in retorts which are heated by a wood fire, the gas from the retorts passing into a series of coils and thence into the purifiers which are similar to those used for coal gas. Lime is the principal purifying agent employed. When it passes out of the retorts the gas possesses an odor much less disagreeable than that of ordinary lighting gas, and resembles somewhat that of the smoke from a fire of green wood or leaves. The works in use are small, turning out

daily 540 cu. meters of gas, for the production of which about two tons of sawdust are required. A man and boy furnish all the labor needed at the works. The gas in an ordinary burner gives an illumination of about 18 c. p. The best quality comes from resinous woods. A quantity of 100 kg. of sawdust leaves a residue of 20 kg. of charcoal.—*Engineering and Mining Journal.*

ICELAND AND THE DESERT OF SAHARA, ELEK. ZEIT, DEC. 12 — Various towns of the island are to be connected by telephone, the plant being installed by an American com-