

# The Educational Journal.

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## The Educational Journal.

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## Editorial Notes.

OUR thanks are due to the Chief Superintendent of Education in New Brunswick for a copy of his full and well arranged annual report for the last school year. Some statistical items will be found in our news columns. The wonder is how the schools can be so well kept up, and furnish so good results, while the salaries of teachers are so small.

WE direct attention to the School Stencils advertised in this issue. This method of outlining objects on the blackboard might be used, we should think, to great advantage by teachers who lack the skill necessary for rapid drawing without such aid. A judicious use of such pictures, outline maps, etc., in connection with the work of the schoolroom will add greatly to both the interest and the profit of many exercises. Directions with stencils.

CONSIDERABLE dissatisfaction has been expressed at the plucking of forty per cent. of the candidates at the recent examinations of College of Physicians and Surgeons; but at the matriculation at London (Eng.) University fifty-two per cent. were plucked and nothing was said. In all professions a rigid examination, if of the right sort, is the best means yet devised for keeping the supply down and the quality up, the two great professional needs of the day.

WE call attention to the interesting talk on science teaching, kindly sent us by Prof. Montgomery, of Kalamazoo College, Michigan. One remark in it especially pleases us, that in which the Professor deprecates the method of scientific instruction “that causes the boy to wish to kill every animal he sees and mount its bones and stuff its skin; to rob every bird's nest and shoot the parent birds.” Too often we note scientific paragraphs and articles in some of our exchanges which would leave the impression that such is the true result of cultivating the love of nature, or scientific faculty.

IT is announced that Mr. John Morley will take charge of a bill in the present session dealing in a drastic way with children selling newspapers and other articles in the streets. Under the age of eight no child is to be allowed to sell at all; and under the age of fourteen, not after 10 p.m. in summer and 9 p.m. in winter. Children arrested will be detained, but not in a prison. This bill, which is intended to apply to all towns of 30,000 inhabitants, is the outcome of the

revelations of juvenile immorality recently made by Canon Frankland, of Newcastle. Some stricter mode of dealing with the same schools of immorality is needed in our towns and cities. It is questionable whether girls should be allowed at any age, to sell in the streets.

WE are glad to perceive that a movement is on foot in Toronto to raise a “Children's Fresh Air Fund,” for the purpose of giving the neglected class of children a number of “Outings” during the coming hot season. The plan is an excellent one; it has been tried in London, New York and other large cities, with the best results. Those who take part in such a scheme are helping to put some sunshine into the lives of little ones which are in the main dark and dreary, in many cases almost to hopelessness. It is a grand thing to give those poor little ones a glimpse of the fresh fields and a breath of the pure air of heaven, and at the same time a practical proof that they are not wholly uncared for. Every true hearted man and woman will lend a helping hand, if possible and needed.

THE matron of the Ladies' Protective and Relief Society, of San Francisco, lately adopted the mustard plaster as a corrective of truancy in some of the boys under her care. We are sorry to be obliged to dispute the claim to originality, set up on behalf of the matron by one of our American exchanges. Unless memory betrays us sadly the same remedy was tried a number of years ago in a Canadian institution, but somehow or other public opinion did not approve of it, and the practice had to be summarily dropped. Possibly if such matrons would direct their inventive powers less to the devising of new physical tortures and more to the art of acquiring a genuine influence over the minds, consciences, and hearts of the children, they might save time and trouble, and reach better results.

“THE city school teachers, in session assembled, have solemnly resolved that corporal punishment should be resorted to whenever it is absolutely necessary. Is there anything under the sun that should not be done whenever it is ‘absolutely necessary?’ Would the world not stop right where it is if anything absolutely necessary to be done were left undone?”—*London Advertiser.*

The *Advertiser* is rather sarcastic but its comment touches the core of the problem. The question is, “Is corporal punishment ever absolutely necessary to the true work of the teacher? If so, when?” The resolution adopted by the London teachers implies that those affected have