

paration. Train your faculties to respond to your demands upon them as the pitcher trains his muscles. Do not allow yourselves to spend two hours upon what should be done in forty minutes. Permit no interruption, no wandering thoughts. Learn to concentrate all your powers and compel them to act every time with their utmost vigor. This is the secret of growth.—*President Bradley in the Public School Journal.*

TIPS.—Referring to the remarks we made last week on Professor Mahaffy's article on 'Sham Education,' a head-master writes to us as follows: 'I most emphatically endorse every word said by both writers. If either article errs it is on the side of leniency. The Education Act of 1872, with its everchanging code of requirements, is

gradually but surely driving honest education out of the country. It tends to the destruction of individuality in teacher and pupil. It puts a premium on duncedom, while the scholar of parts is at a discount. Look at the number of "tip" books in the market.—Tips in Arithmetic, Wrinkles in Algebra, &c., &c.' Our correspondent continues: 'It was a good saying of the late Dr. Robertson, Head master of Warrender Park School, Edinburgh—"I have only one examination tip," he was fond of saying, "that of making the boys *understand* their work." The arithmetic in code schools is put on in slices, this year's slice presenting to the pupil apparently no point of contact with that of the year preceding. God bless the code makers—they are merry men.'—*The Publishers' Circular.*

## GEOGRAPHY.

A WEST INDIAN PICTURE.—I. The West India Islands extend from the peninsula of Florida to the mouth of the Orinoco and are divided into three groups—the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles, and the Lesser Antilles. The Greater Antilles include Cuba, Hayti, Port Rico, and Jamaica. The Bahamas, Jamaica, and most of the Lesser Antilles belong to England. Of the remainder of the Lesser Antilles, St. John, St. Thomas, and Santa Cruz belong to Denmark; St. Bartholomew, Guadeloupe, and Martinique to France; and Curaco and two adjacent islands on the coast of Venezuela to the Dutch.

2, Cuba, the largest island belongs to Spain. Its length from east to west is 750 miles, and its area is 43,000 square miles. A range of mountains runs through the length of the island, and in its eastern portions

attains an elevation of nearly 8000 feet. Copper is very abundant, and gold, silver, and iron are also met with. The population is about 1,500,000. The chief exports are sugar, coffee, and tobacco, along with mahogany, cedar, and other timber, copper-ore, rum, wax, and hides. Havana, the capital, possesses a fine harbour, and is by far the most important town in the West Indies; the population is 200,000.

DIAMONDS.—Diamond merchants in Hatton-garden, London, buy up the rough diamonds from the Cape, India, Brazil, and Australia. The earliest known diamonds came from India, and it is said that the history of the Koh-i-noor may be traced back for 5000 years, for it is mentioned in the songs of the Vedas. Nearly all