

contend against in the teaching of science in this country was that teachers had no conception of the distinction, for they thought it quite sufficient to be able to repeat a number of scientific propositions, and to get their pupils to repeat them as accurately as they did themselves. If he might offer one suggestion to the governing body of the college, it was that they should aim at giving real and practical scientific instruction, and that they should confine themselves to those things about which there was no dispute, and that a teacher should convey clear and vivid impressions of the body of fact upon which conclusions drawn from those facts were based. Unless that were done, he would far sooner see an absolute suspension of the system of pretending to teach science, as their time could be better spent in learning grammar, literature, and arithmetic.—*The Schoolmaster*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Inspector Puzzle among the Lady Teachers.—There are few things in life that seem to me sadder than the obscure troubles endured by an ordinary schoolmistress who teaches in a district presided over by a person like Puzzle. The average female teacher is nervously eager to perform the uttermost part of her duty; she is minutely conscientious in her attention to small things; she has that patience which men sometimes lack. Above all, she is apt to have an exaggerated reverence of those in authority, and to manifest her reverence in various ways, which I find singularly pathetic. To see one of the poor souls on the morning of an examination day, and to watch her flushed face and her undecided hands, is not exhilarating. I know that some mistresses are able to take things lightly. They have tact, and resource, and steady nerve; they do their work thoroughly, and they do not fear any official in the world. There is no trembling of hands, nor shaky voice where they are concerned, and an Inspector like Puzzle has to keep himself within bounds when he is in their schools. But the average mistress, unhappily, has neither tact nor resource nor self-possession. She has seen little of the world, she is anything but reposeful in her demeanor, and a paternal government has educated her very ineffectively indeed. She can teach well, as a rule, because of her long mechanical training, and she tries her utmost all the year round. But in personal adroitness and courage she is deficient by reason of her education. Her very conscientiousness is against her, for she is continually doubting her own powers. The approach of an inspection-day is torture to her. Not once, but a hundred times I have heard girls and women say, "Oh, dear! I do wish the examination was over. It would be such a weight off my mind." Merry girls who are soon to be married, and taken out of the worry, do not fret themselves much. But there are many good