

very much increased. We invite the educators of Canada to make use of our pages to advance the highest interests of the country. Any one who has anything of value to say, not necessarily on technical school matters, cannot speak more effectively anywhere than in this magazine, nor to a more appreciative and sympathetic circle of readers.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

NOT a few people think it a virtue to criticise school trustees as ignorant men, unfamiliar with school work, ill-adapted to their position. This is not only ill-mannered, but is unjust. It is true that many men serve on Trustee Boards who have not scholarly attainments, who are not familiar with the science or art of teaching; but, with few and unimportant exceptions, they are gentlemen of correct judgment, good spirit and fixed purposes in the right direction. As a rule, they are the best men Canada can place in these positions of trust at the present time. We have no sympathy with the good people who are continually decrying our men in public places of trust and responsibility. If they are not the best men the fault is that of the electors. In general, the best trustees are the non-professional class. They rarely disturb or harass a teacher who does good work. There is one danger which constantly menaces our Public School Boards, and that is partyism; therefore we note as a favourable indication that very few Boards have adopted the plan of electing the trustees on the same day as councilmen or aldermen. It is wiser to consider school interests and the best men to manage them apart from the distraction and excitement of any other public election. We hope the electorate will take care to select fit and proper men for these high interests.

TRAIN THE BOYS TO BUSINESS.

THERE is one element in the home instruction of boys to which too little attention has been given; and that is the cultivation of habits of punctuality, system, order and responsibility.

In many households boys' lives between twelve and seventeen years are generally the calmest of their existence. Up in the morning just in season for breakfast; nothing to do but to start off early enough not to be late; looking upon an errand as taking so much time and memory away from enjoyment; little thought of personal appearance except when reminded by mother to "spruce up" a little; finding his wardrobe always where mother puts it; in fact having nothing to do but to enjoy himself. Thus his life goes on till school ends. Then he is ready for business. Vain thought! At this he perhaps meets with his first great struggle. Many times during our business experience have we witnessed failures caused by the absence of a thorough home discipline. How the boy without this great advantage fails is thus fairly described by the *Scientific American*:

He goes into an office where everything is system, order, precision. He is expected to keep things neat and orderly, sometimes kindle fires, or do errands—in short to become a part of a nicely regulated machine, where everything moves in systematic grooves, and each one is responsible for correctness in his department, and where in place of ministers to his comforts, he finds taskmasters, more or less lenient to be sure, and everything in marked contrast to his previous life. In many instances the change is too great. Errors become very numerous; blunders, overlooked at first, get to be a matter of serious moment; then patience is overtaken, and the boy is told his services are