

THE
EDUCATIONAL RECORD
OF THE
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

No. 2.

FEBRUARY, 1885.

VOL. V.

PREPARATION OF LESSONS BY THE TEACHER.

BY W. DIXON, ESQ., B.A., HIGH SCHOOL, MONTREAL.

(Continued from page 4.)

Such study, too, will enable the teacher to weed out of text-books what is unnecessary and useless. We all know that a great deal is contained in text-books, which is not intended to be memorised, but is there merely to throw light upon the important and salient matter. Anything, therefore that will enable a pupil to separate this chaff from the wheat is surely most desirable; for I think I may venture to say that one of the prominent mistakes of our teaching to-day is the promiscuous way in which we force our pupils to learn both the useful and the useless. In this way we are largely chargeable with turning out "bookful blockheads, with loads of learned lumber in their heads," instead of following the opinions of John Stuart Mill and Sir William Hamilton, and imparting to pupils what is best calculated to cultivate common sense, and to determine them to self-activity. Let the teacher, then, study his lesson until he is able to strike from it all non-essentials, until his mind is quite decided as to what he wishes his pupils to learn and store up. No doubt, as President Chadbourne says: "It takes a brave man, one merciless to himself, to make a small, simple, but thorough text-book: but such text-books we must have, if we use them at all." In fact, this clearing of the text-books of all that is intended only for show, and perhaps for the heads of a few, is one of the chief aids a teacher renders to his