

sent to his institution. They will be a means of enabling him to satisfy both his pupils and his employers as to the character of the work he is doing, and they will tend to broaden the educational horizon of all who are engaged in it. If the principal of Pickering College will only apply to the universities which have local examinations for a similar privilege he will set an excellent example. On the other hand it is only fair that if the Education Department takes cognizance of such schools by sending them papers and appointing presiding examiners, it should also ask them to submit to departmental inspection. Well conducted schools should welcome such a change for other reasons, and more especially because it would be a means of enabling the public to distinguish between good institutions and shams.

DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS.

At the recent teachers' convention for North Simcoe the subject of departmental examinations came up for discussion in connection with an able address by Mr. Spotton, headmaster of the Barrie high school. A committee was appointed to consider the question and after deliberation it reported strongly in favour of the proposal to separate the intermediate from the public school teachers' examination and to restore the intermediate to its original position as a promotion examination.

Those who have followed the course of educational changes during the past few years will remember that the combination of the two examinations above referred to was an experiment and that it has never since been regarded as other than a doubtful one. The opinion of practical men everywhere is now against the arrangement being continued, and, as usual, the Minister of Education is found quite abreast of public opinion in the matter. In the course of his address at the closing of the Ottawa model school a few days ago he announced that the two examinations would hereafter be separate, an announcement which will be universally satisfactory to teachers.

The educational authorities of Manitoba have placed the new provincial normal school under the immediate supervision of Mr. J. B. Somerset, the inspector of schools for the city of Winnipeg. This is a judicious arrangement especially where, as in this case, the inspector is known to be thoroughly experienced and efficient. It brings the normal school into direct contact with the public school system and keeps up between them an intimate relation which cannot fail to have an excellent effect on both. We would in this connection, call attention to the advertisement in this number of the JOURNAL for a headmaster for the new normal school in Winnipeg. What is wanted is a teacher with the highest professional attainments rather than one with a high reputation for classical scholarship. If both qualifications can be secured in one person so much the better; but as the primary function of the school is to train teachers, not to produce scholars, professional efficiency should be made an indispensable condition and should never be subordinated to mere literary or scientific attainments.

HIGH SCHOOL INSPECTION.

The article on this topic, in another part of this issue, should be read by all who are interested in keeping up the status of secondary schools. Hasty inspection must needs be cursory, and cursory inspection is of very little value. It is unnecessary to dwell on an aspect of the case which has been so well discussed by the writer, and which will appeal strongly to every teacher. On another point "Head Master" might have said even more than he has done and yet kept studiously moderate. The normal schools of Ontario stand in need of departmental supervision as well as the high schools, and the task of inspecting them falls naturally and properly to the high school inspectors. As a matter of fact one of these officers has during the past few weeks spent a good deal of his time at this very work and this has been done at the expense of high school supervision. The work of high school inspection proper would, if thoroughly done, occupy more than the time of two inspectors, and when to this work is added their *ex-officio* duties as members of the Central Committee of the Department and the work of normal school supervision it is clear that the question of appointing a third inspector cannot be very long postponed without injury to the cause of education.

The announcement has recently been made that Dr. Schurman, who has for some time held a chair in Acadia College, Nova Scotia, has accepted a new chair endowed by Mr. George Munro in Dalhousie College, Halifax. His subjects will be English literature and metaphysics, two fields of inquiry in which he is especially proficient, and which are understood to be congenial to his taste. To all appearance Dr. Schurman has a brilliant career before him. He is a native of Prince Edward Island and is only some 28 years of age. While a student of Acadia College he took the Gilchrist scholarship in the University of London, and spent the next few years in Britain and Germany, graduating with distinction in both countries. Since his return to his native country, he has been engaged in teaching in Acadia and now transfers his services to a somewhat wider field. It is alike gratifying to record the liberality of Mr. Munro, a Canadian who has made a fortune by publishing in New York, and the appointment of Dr. Schurman, a Canadian who has superadded to his home training the best culture of London and Berlin.

A movement has been set on foot in the United States to provide by subscription a memorial for the poet Longfellow. The original idea was a one-dollar list, but wealthy men are contributing larger sums and it is therefore quite likely that a considerable amount will be realized. It is to be hoped that, as he has already reared for himself a "monument more enduring than brass," the bulk of the money raised will be devoted to the foundation of some chair or institution for the instruction of the people—a project in which he would himself, if alive, take a deep interest. A statue, whether in bronze or marble, is evanescent, but the name of Longfellow attached to, say, a chair of literature in Harvard would be enduring.