

# The Educational Review.

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## THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.

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INSTANCES of endowments to educational institutions in these provinces are unfortunately too rare, and all could wish for the benefit of the institutions themselves, as well as to gain a reputation for greater liberality in such a good cause, that we had more frequent donations to record. The University of New Brunswick is to be congratulated on a recent gift of \$2,000.00 from Asa Dow, of Canterbury, York County, to found a scholarship. May such donors rapidly multiply among us.

THE Nova Scotia Normal School Alumni Association offers a first prize of fifteen dollars and a second one of ten dollars for the best and second best essays on "The Public School as a Preparation for Citizenship." Competition to be open to all members who have taught not less than three years, or who hold a normal school diploma. (Membership fee only twenty-five cents). Essays should be sent to the secretary-treasurer, Prof. A. G. McDonald, Normal School, Truro, not later than the first of next May. They should be signed with a *nom-de-plume* only, which, with the competitor's name and address, should be sent not later than the first of July next, in a sealed letter, subscribed, "Alumni Prize Essay," to the secretary of the association.

THE conservatism of England has at least the one advantage that whatever progress is made is always in the right direction. The educationists of England were slow in requiring professional training of her teachers, but they are now beginning to do so; and what they do require is of the right kind. All candidates for examination by the College of Preceptors are required to give evidence of experience and actual occupation in teaching, in addition to the examination on mental and moral science applied to education, practical teaching, lesson-giving, criticism of methods, etc. There has been an increase of candidates this year of 50 per cent.

THE *Educational Times*, London, does not seem to have much sympathy with the reformed spelling, or much respect for the opinions of its many distinguished advocates. In the last number we find: "There is a point beyond which the demand for reformed spelling seems to indicate an incipient softening of the brain-stuff. The disease may begin with wrangles over 'judgment' and 'judgement,' but it is pretty sure to end, if it be not checked, in such extravagancies as that of the good folk who turn 'colour' into 'color' and call it 'culler' just to show their purity of language." Conservatism carried to this extent ignores the fact of language growth and may be regarded as a symptom of approaching senility.

THERE is very great danger to education from the machine-like perfection and rigidity of some of its modern systems. When the ideas of any one individual are allowed to dominate a whole country and crystallize into a system, progress is nearly at an end. It would be very easy to cite cases in our own Dominion and elsewhere. The natural development of educational thought requires large freedom in the way of experiment. The educational chaos of the United States, or the tentative methods of England, promise more for the future of education than the more symmetrical systems of the Dominion of Canada. Nearly all great educational reforms were worked out in private or experimental schools.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY is the first to advertise its Summer School. See notice in another column.