

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## HIGH SCHOOL INSPECTION.

*Editor of THE MONTHLY :*

SIR,—I wish to enter a protest against some features in the present mode of inspecting High Schools and reporting upon their work. In the first place, I object most decidedly to the grading of each teacher's work. There is a very old "saw" to the effect that "comparisons are odious." In inspection they are particularly so. If any good purpose were served by the obnoxious practice I would say nothing about it, but no good purpose is served by it. This grading of teachers is apt to generate unkindly feelings among the members of a staff, and in the hurried way in which inspection is often done the grading is frequently unfair. How would the present inspectors like to see themselves compared and graded with their predecessors? How does a ranking, something like this, commend itself to their judgment :

The late Prof. Young . . . . . I.

The late S. A. Marling . . . . . I.

The late Principal Buchan . . . I.

Ex-Inspector J. A. McLellan . . II.

Inspector Hodgson . . . . . II.

Inspector Seath . . . . . IV.

Parenthetically, and in the eloquent English of the Departmental reports, I may explain that in the above estimate, "the grading ranges from I., the highest, to IV., the lowest." Seriously speaking, the junior inspector's grading system is unnecessary and

impertinent. By it he undertakes to value and gauge the teaching of men, every whit as competent to teach as he is. By it he arrogates to himself a position of superiority, to which he is not entitled, and which only makes him ridiculous in the eyes of his old associates.

But, it may be asked, what should an inspector do in case he finds an incompetent teacher in any school? Well, he should report him to the Principal and trustees, of course. The predecessors of the present inspectors used to do this, and I think it can be safely and modestly said that they did their work as well, and stimulated progress in the schools as successfully as do the present incumbents.

I hold that the chief duty of an inspector of High Schools is to see that the law and regulations of the Education Department are fairly carried into effect. In addition to this, if he is a man of fine feeling and good judgment, an inspector's visits may be helpful to young teachers and to inexperienced trustees; but if he does not possess those finer qualifications, his visits may be more like those fabled ones of the bull to the china shop; and Minister Ross may find it to be in the interests of education to assign such a bungling official to the superintendence of a less delicate mechanism than that of our High School system.

Yours truly,

HEAD MASTER.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

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