

**Editorial Notes and Comments.**

Two of the questions raised at the late Teachers' Convention should not be allowed to drop. These are a necessary improvement in the methods of training our children to speak and write good English, and the possibility of providing trained teachers for our elementary schools as well as for the superior schools. To prevent the former question from being lost sight of we give the first instalment of Miss MacLeod's paper in this issue, and in order to have some action taken immediately in connection with the second movement, we would urge upon the Convener of the Committee appointed by the Convention to call a meeting as soon as possible. If we were at all inclined to multiply the number of necessary reforms required to make our system what it ought to be, we would mention, as next in importance, the centralizing of school work in the municipality. This we have advocated before, and now that others have adopted the idea we will possibly be able to report results other than the mere making of speeches such as have been so long indulged in by our politicians and others, for the sake of the applause that accompanies them. An ounce of practical suggestion is worth a whole ton of theorizing about the possible or the impossible. To keep alive the interest in the necessity for an improved system of training teachers, we intend publishing in our next issue a pertinent article from the pen of S. B. Sinclair Esq., M.A. of the Ottawa Normal School,

—In a late issue of Harper's Magazine we find the following on the training question which cannot but meet with the views of those who would have trained teachers speaking good English in all our schools, and it comes with greater force being written by an outsider: There is unanimity of opinion says this writer, upon another thing, and that is the necessity of better teachers for all schools, and of the importance of the teacher over the text-book. All the conferences insist upon the necessity of better-trained and better-informed teachers, and these are specially needed in the primary schools. In order to improve the quality of the teachers, it is recommended that we have more and better normal schools, where men and women shall be trained to teach, and be drilled in the complete mastery of the subjects which they may attempt to teach. This recommendation is vital, but the difficulty is deeper than this, for it lies in the wide-spread misapprehension that it is less important to have good teachers in the lower schools than in the higher. As a matter of fact, the majority of the common