

others less happy than themselves. As I dare say you know, some important schools pledge their pupils to pursue these interests when school life is over, by forming them into a little society or guild, or they found a mission in some poor part of London. These are excellent incentives to un-

selfish social work, as long as the spirit continues to vitalize the form. To test the rightness of benevolent work, we must be assured that it is "twice blessed," and that it brings even more blessing to the worker than to those worked for.—*The Journal of Education* (London).

## PUBLIC OPINION.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.**—The result of the plebiscite taken at Timaru on the question of the length of the school holidays is worthy of note. The Committee had decided to cut down the holidays; but, on an appeal to the parents, a vote was taken, and the proposed reduction of holidays was overthrown by a vote of 245 to 66. This is significant. It means, we believe, that the majority of parents undoubtedly think that both scholars and teachers deserve a good holiday at the end of a year's work such as is now required.—*The New Zealand Schoolmaster*.

**RELIGIOUS. EDUCATION.**—Every country where a system of public education prevails has had to settle in some way the question of secular as against religious education. The view that education should be religious in the broad sense—that it should make for courage, reverence, self-denial, duty—would probably find general acceptance. These things are more important than the muchvaunted three R's; but unfortunately the attempt to frame a scheme for that kind of teaching is rendered difficult by the jealousies and contentions of the advocates of various forms of doctrine.—*Toronto Globe*.

**THE PHYSICIAN IN SCHOOL.**—We have received many inquiries relative to the proposed plan of daily medical

inspection of the schools of Boston. There are 60,000 children in 193 school buildings, and the idea of having a daily examination of each of these pupils and buildings by a skilful physician seems preposterous to many. Indeed, some of our inquiries indicate that it is regarded as a new fad. In answer to one and all we would say that the plan originated with the Board of Health, that it has been successfully tried in Brussels for a number of years, that the city council of Boston has appropriated \$5,000 for the experiment this year, that the Board of Health is ardently in favour of it, but declines to go forward without the sanction and co-operation of the School Board, that the indications are that his latter body does not think the work could be done with sufficient thoroughness to accomplish anything to justify the interruption it might be to school work. The matter originated with the introduction of the following recommendation of the Board of Health in the mayor's inaugural last January: The need of daily medical inspection in our public schools, by which early symptoms of contagious diseases and sanitary defects may be discovered and brought to the attention of the Board of Health, and the importance of giving prompt and trustworthy notice and advice to teachers upon these and many other questions pertaining to the health and safety of the pupils,