

class of teachers whom I wish to address.

Among the chief difficulties that meet us in our High School work is the pupils' inability to think for themselves, and to give expression to their thoughts with any degree of freedom. This is not surprising when such helps as I have mentioned are used in the classes. The questions asked in one issue being answered in the next, the pupils are not required to think, and even the words to be used are put into their mouths. We can get rid of this evil in the High Schools, as we are not now obliged to use the High School Reader for work in literature, but no doubt there will continue to be a demand for

these helps in the Public Schools so long as boys and girls can become qualified teachers on answering one-third of the questions asked at teachers' examinations.

Yours, etc.,

L. E. EMBREE.

Toronto, March 30th.

Nothing is more destructive to the life of a school than "self-helps" in a school. The use of these "helps" (?) kills the teacher in a short time, and, therefore, ruins the school. Teachers, avoid them for your own sake; avoid them for the sake of the intellectual life of your pupils. Shun them constantly for lasting welfare of your school.—Ed. C. E. M.

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#### MAGAZINE AND BOOK REVIEWS.

The Business of a Theatre by W. J. Henderson is a most readable article in the March *Scribner's Magazine*. It is already past doubt that we are in the midst of a great revival of interest in the play-house. At present there is not much to be proud of in the way of new work, but the demand will in time create the supply. Archibald Lampman, whose early death has excited sympathetic interest, contributes to the present number a sonnet called the Winter Stays. Mr. Cable's very charming three part story is concluded. He has certainly done nothing better than this. The Entomologist contains none of that singular indefinite confusion of incident and conversation which made John March hard reading for so many. Robert Grant's Searchlight Letter for March is directed to a modern woman with social ambitions, and as usual with Mr. Grant it is very good indeed. He seems to understand how intensely a number of women

are attached to what they call social success. The illustrations in *Scribner's* are as a rule striking and artistic, but mention should be made of the work in this number by Albert Herter, Peixotto and McCarter.

There is a remarkable article entitled The Resurrection; a study in the Evolution of Religion, by W. W. Peyton, reproduced in *The Living Age* from *The Contemporary Review*.

The Verdict in the Rutherford Case by Walter Barr, is a successful short story of American politics in the March number of the *Cosmopolitan*. The illustrations for this story are drawn by Peter Newell in his own peculiar manner. Whether Mr. Newell actually sees people in this way or not one cannot tell, but he conveys to the magazine adept an extraordinary impression of individual character from his drawings. How Miss Miggs Fitted Herself for Matrimony isn't a short story, it is a tract by Frances Courtenay Baylor, who views life with