

fact are mountains to the nervous candidate. With swimming head and confused mind he scans the examination paper, and then his heart sinks as he feels his inability to cope with it. Such dread is altogether out of place. Instead of any such feeling, there should be the utmost coolness—nothing should daunt the well prepared candidate. The work must be done. Then let it be done courageously.

3rd. *Be systematic.* It is marvellous how successful some candidates are in *mixing* up their answers. Sentence after sentence run into each other, without a punctuation mark or a space to separate them, any more than the old English black letter of Caxton. Where a paragraph begins and where it ends, is a perfect mystery. All is confusion and "vexation of spirit" to the Examiner, and to the candidate loss of credit, for what is really meritorious were it only intelligible. We say then—and we wish to emphasize, it—be systematic. Write in sentences and paragraphs. Enumerate

and, where possible, tabulate your answers.

4th. *Be legible.* Besides the confusion of arrangement already referred to, there is much loss from illegible writing. No examiner wishes to use a microscope in order to decipher what should be visible to the naked eye. Ladies particularly err in this direction. And, let it be remembered, it is not the style of the writing that we refer to, it is its legibility. A plain distinct hand as it is called, is all that is necessary, and the fewer flourishes the better. Distinctness is quite a different thing from artistic finish.

5th. *Be concise.* Nothing is gained by diffuseness or elaboration. Express your ideas in the fewest words possible; once a question is fully answered then stop, for anything more but diminishes its value. Don't attempt too much. Stick to the point. Verbosity but obscures the sense. Clearness and brevity combined are two valuable elements in a paper. Better one sentence than two, if one is enough.

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## THE TONIC SOL-FA METHOD OF LEARNING TO SING.

BY MR. T. ALLEN—READ BEFORE THE EAST MIDDLESEX TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION IN LONDON, FEB. 26, 1876.

"Easy, cheap, and true," is the motto of this exceedingly popular and useful method. Although comparatively but little known in Canada, its success in different parts of the world have abundantly proved its claims to popular favor to be well founded. The method is the invention of Miss Glover, a benevolent lady of the city of Harwich, England, who finding in her schools the need of a simpler and more easily taught notation than that in general use, developed a system by which the children were taught to sing in 4, 6, or even 8 parts, and

to use intelligently the sol-fa music books provided.

About thirty years ago the Rev. John Curwen, an ardent educationist and lover of children, became acquainted with Miss Glover's sol-fa method, and having by a visit and careful examination of practical results, satisfied himself of the value of the invention, he modified, improved, and introduced it to public notice in a book entitled "Singing for Schools and Congregations." Since then it has received the approval of some of the best educationists