

Notes and Comments.

"EDUCATION" thinks blackboards and slates are doomed, that the day is coming when teachers and children will write on walls and desk tablets of lustreless white with soft, dustless pencils. These are now being introduced into the German schools. Dr. Cohn, the great German oculist, recommends those tablets made in Pilsen as *lacking entirely a lustre which is trying to the eye.*

MR. RUDOLPH DE GUEHERY, teacher, Pettewawa, will, at the close of the term this year, celebrate his twenty-fifth year of teaching in the Province of Ontario. Mr. de Guehery is a painstaking and able teacher and we hope that he has still before him many years of useful work in the profession.—*Pembroke Observer.* Mr. R. de Guehery is re-engaged for a fifth year with increase of salary.

THE desire of the W. C. T. Union of Ontario is that:—

1st. Scientific temperance instruction be made compulsory in all classes in our Public schools.

2nd. A graded series of text books on the subject, be placed in the hands of the scholars.

3rd. Instruction be given regularly in this study as in other studies of the course, and similar examinations required of the pupils. The books recommended by the Ontario Union are:—"The Barnes Series" (graded), consisting of *The Child's Health Primer* (in Canada), 35 cents; *Hygiene for Young People*, 55 cents; *Steel's Hygienic Physiology*, \$1.

"THE triumphs of lady students over their male competitors at Queen's and Toronto Universities are becoming old stories, and now McGill, the last to admit women to the privileges of higher education, is the scene of successes still more conspicuous. There the ladies have captured in the recent Christmas examinations first place in every subject save two in the three years of the course. When they reach the fourth and final stage of the curriculum they may confidently be expected to carry off most of the honours. Who said that the mental power of Canadian girls lagged behind their splendid physique? In eighteen class examinations upon as many subjects in the three different years the girls stood first at McGill in sixteen."—*Ottawa Evening Journal.*

EDUCATORS on both sides of the Atlantic are crying out against the system that compels students to direct their work toward the getting of a high per cent. at a competitive examination. The publication of examination lists by the colleges and schools of this city [Winnipeg] would seem to indicate a different opinion among the members of the craft here. When our young people are led

to exert themselves to properly perform their school duties in order that their names may be given to an admiring public at the end of each week, they are hardly being educated in that becoming modesty that "does good by stealth," nor are they being taught the scriptural principle which enjoins that the good deeds of the right hand be concealed from the left.—*The Manitoban.*

IN a school section in Northumberland County, where a young lady is engaged as teacher, there has been quite a dispute as to whether it would be prudent to re-engage her or not. It was claimed that she had too many admirers of the opposite sex, and that the section had thus been deprived of a portion of her time that should have been spent in the discharge of her duties as a teacher. Accordingly at the school meeting the trustees had an agreement drawn up to the effect that she should not keep company during the coming year with any young men during school hours, as her undivided time should be devoted to the school. Upon her refusing to sign this agreement it was decided to leave it to a vote of the meeting as to whether she should be compelled to sign it or not. A show of hands was taken, and it resulted in a tie, when the chairman, being a young man, gave the casting vote in her favour. So says the *Trenton Courier.*

INSPECTOR CARSON, of W. Middlesex, has issued the following circular to the teachers of his inspectorate:—The teachers during this year, will please give increased attention to reading, writing, drawing, singing, and calisthenic or drill. Many teachers, are of opinion that six songs, each requiring a different air, should be taught each half-year. Kindly consider this matter and come prepared to discuss it when the teachers meet on the 28th and 29th of April, in the town of Strathroy. The Department of Education requires every teacher to read carefully for next meeting, "Hopkins' Outline Study of Man" and "Fitch's Lectures on Teaching," as the Director of Institutions will ask questions based on these texts. Get to work at once, we want to do well in the examinations. A gold medal will be given to the candidate who makes the highest marks at the next Strathroy Entrance. The winner of this medal must be under 15 years, and a pupil attending this half-year one of the public schools of West Middlesex.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Journal des Débats* gives some account of the great advance which higher education in Greece has made of recent years. There are 33 "gymnasias" in the kingdom, 200 secondary schools, and 1,717 primary schools. These are all public. Among the private educational establishments, the first place must be given to the "Society for the Higher Education of Women," in connection with which a *lycée* for girls was established a few

years ago, with a staff of 76 teachers and 1,476 pupils. Greeks send their girls there from all parts of the East. Education is very liberally endowed in Greece; and the sums which Greeks settled in foreign countries send home for this purpose are very large. One result, of course, is that the Greeks are almost entirely in possession of the learned professions in Turkey. Illiteracy, too, is rare in the kingdom; in the most out-of-the-way hill countries you will see little scholars (says the correspondent from whom we are quoting) reading their Piatarch's "Lives."

THE *American Teacher* makes the following most sensible remarks:—Every teacher of experience knows the value of the good will of his pupils, but many fail in securing the confidence and love of children; not because they do not desire to do so, but from the lack of knowledge of the true way to accomplish their purpose. The secret of success and power in acquiring an abiding hold of the minds and hearts of children lies in the ability we possess to enter heartily into their feelings, to understand their childish hopes and fears and their joys and sorrows. The teacher who would acquire an ascendancy over the young must sympathize with their ideas, their fancies, and even their caprices, in all cases where he can do so and not come in conflict with principle and duty. Teachers must study constantly child nature, child activity, child thought, and child feeling, if they would form a bond of union between themselves and their pupils. Such sympathy must be sincere and genuine; unless it is so they cannot bring themselves close to the children's hearts nor enter into their world.

THE Corporal Punishment in Board Schools question (says the *St. James's Gazette*) has been temporarily settled. The assistant teachers are not to be allowed to "whack" the boys and girls, which, perhaps, is just as well, seeing that they are often mere boys and girls themselves. But the Board still allows head teachers the right to exercise this very necessary and salutary discipline. It has adopted a resolution of Mrs. Westlake's which points out to the teachers that the good schoolmaster is he who contrives to spare the rod without spoiling the child. It would be more useful if, instead of this piece of abstract and disputable doctrine, the Board had laid down precise rules as to the mode in which corporal punishment should be inflicted. The use of the rod—or, better, the birch—should be limited to "that portion of the body which can receive any reasonable infliction without danger of ill consequences," as the *Times* euphemistically puts it. Blows on the head are perilous and cruel in the highest degree, and caning on the hand is not a practice for which there is much to be said.