

The School

"Recti cultus pectora roborant"

Editorial Notes

Teaching the War.—The war is fraught with such momentous consequences for civilisation and liberty that it is the undoubted duty of teachers to make the issues plain to children. The Department of Education of Ontario, recognising this, has decreed that the history of the war shall be taught in schools and has issued a circular, now revised and brought up to date, on the subject. This every teacher should consult. At the outset two problems are confronted. In the first place, history deals with the examination and interpretation of past events in such a way as will serve for future guidance. Yet the war is still on. It is not past. How can the teacher interpret fairly events which are of so recent occurrence that they still burn the soul and warp the judgment? The answer lies in the fact that we know nothing of anything until it is past—all knowledge is past or historical knowledge, and that sufficient time has now elapsed to enable us to get a proper perspective on the earlier phases of the struggle and on the immediate causes of the war. With the more remote causes there is not the difficulty of recency. Further, the more correct our interpretation of earlier events, the sounder will our judgment be on those more recent, and the surer our forecasts as to the future. The second difficulty, and perhaps the greater to the busy teacher, is the question of source material. So many books have been written about the war and so much war news gets into the daily and other papers that confusion instead of enlightenment is likely to result. In this connection THE SCHOOL has played, we think, a useful part. Month by month it has printed articles on various aspects of the war, bearing in mind the whole time the needs of the teachers. These articles are to be continued and eventually the whole of the war syllabus, as outlined by the Department, will be covered. In the meantime and in response to the urgent requests of teachers, all the war articles of THE SCHOOL to September 1916 have been collected and reprinted in a special edition. The editors are of opinion that this book of over 150 pages is the best single volume on the subject for the purpose of schools. Only a strictly limited number of copies is available. *Verbum sat sapienti.*