

serting that there is none, will do great disservice both to the Minister and to those incriminated. After what has come to light, only the sheerest impertinence can array itself in the guise of innocence, and with a cheap swagger and smug conceit call for the evidence of guilt. The public are now past trifling with in the matter, and of all men the Minister should by this time know what course it will be safe for him to take to allay the distractions of the controversy and to purge the Department of what has so long defiled it. However the Central Committee may be reconstructed, this assurance at least must now be given, that no one shall again be suffered to take the business of intellectual culture in hand to degrade it by illegally trading in the implements of education, and, in alliance with intriguing publishers, to use the office for the purposes of his pocket. It was bad enough that the teaching profession should have been made familiar with the arts of inspectoral intrigue, and be held in bondage to its arrogance and official thumb-screwing, but far more criminal has it been to familiarize youth with the ethical standards which our chief preceptors have raised in their sight and hearing, and to have shattered in their minds the fair ideal of what ought to be their models of all that makes for the gentleman and the man of honour. Unfortunately, the system upon which examinations are founded and the Government grant apportioned, is itself responsible for much that is *unlovely in the mental and moral aspects of our youth while under school training*; but he is a vile man who would further bedevil the system by making it the catchpenny to his greed, and at the same time entrap literature to trick itself out in the catchy conundrums which the senior Inspector, among others, has apparently deemed the legitimate exercise of an examiner's calling. With so vicious a system of school tests and the disastrous necessity of cramming and forcing, to enable the schools to hold their own in the successive educational race-heats, it is not to be wondered at that the arts of the empiric and the charlatan have flourished; but aware of the weak points of the system,

it was to be expected that the Minister would be doubly vigilant—not only to prevent imposition and to remove incompetence but to take note of abuses which, with open temptation on all sides to create them, were sure to attach to the working of the varied and complicated machinery of his Department. That Mr. Crooks has not met reasonable public expectation in regard to these points of his administration, is, we say it sympathizingly, a matter of universal regret. We are confident, however, that his failure to satisfy that expectation has not been occasioned by want either of ability or of good intentions. The explanation is rather to be found, if we seek for it in personal shortcomings, in a nervous constitutional timidity and unreadiness, a manner uninviting and haughty, and an impolitic impatience with those who seek an interview with him on the public business of his office. But the prime source of failure, manifestly, is in the unfortunate choice he made some years ago of the members of his advisory body—not one-half of whom are men of the stamp to be entrusted with the responsible duties assigned to them. To abolish the Committee, as some have clamoured for, is of course not to be thought of; it has its useful and legitimate purposes, and may be made a real and satisfactory aid to the Minister. It might well, however, be reduced in number and its duties considerably curtailed. We have long thought that the Intermediate Examination, which was recently cut down to an annual, instead of a semi-annual test of school progress, might with advantage be conducted not on independent Departmental tests, but based, with some necessary adaptations, upon the University Matriculation or local examinations. This would greatly relieve and simplify the work now falling upon the Central Committee, and would be a vast saving of expense to the country, besides getting rid of a system the tendency of which is to encourage, in some sinister form or other, evils which have seemed inseparable from Departmental inspection and examination.

But Mr. Crooks's instant and most imperious want is of a small host of cultured men