

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Deliver not the tasks of might
To weakness, neither hide the ray
From those, not blind, who wait for day,
Tho' sitting girt with doubtful light.

"That from Discussion's lips may fall
With Life, that working strongly, binds—
Set in all lights by many minds,
So close the interests of all."

There may appear to be a formality in our sending New Year's greeting to our readers so many days after the first of January, and, late though it be, there is none the less a deep sincerity in our wishes for their success in life. The relationship between editor and reader is in one respect perhaps a far-away one, and yet the common work in which THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY and the teachers of Canada are engaged in seems to make the relationship a very near and dear one. The advancement of our country, through the best matured plans for improving the school training of the present and the future, is surely as ennobling a work as can well be imagined; and surely the most modest worker within the limits of such a sphere of labor can join with the higher grade worker in reciprocal congratulations at this time of the year, if not at all times of the year. The sympathy between the MONTHLY and its readers we feel, from the encouragement given to us during the past year, is deepening and widening, and we trust it will go on to deepen and to widen until all elements of our various educational systems from Nova Scotia to British Columbia will become convinced that we have no end to serve in continuing our work but the further development of these systems for good, and the desire to extend a helping hand in that great work. Again we pass the current courteous expression around while sending greeting to all: "A Happy New Year."

Circulars from the Education Department remind us that the examina-

tions for 1899 are approaching. In these circulars the Minister of Education shows his appreciation of the grave danger connected with these examinations and very emphatically warns masters and all others concerned that the results are not to be used for promotions or classification of schools in any way. No pupil need spend his money on these examinations; they are simply for professional purposes: teaching, law, medicine, etc. The fee for the whole examination to any candidate is not to exceed \$5.00. We think the profession will welcome this change, and that all educators will be glad of the effect produced by the discussions we have had during the past two or three years. In this connection, we do not see why, from the Department's point of view, any part of these examinations should be known as the I. Form examination, or II. Form examination. We think the Department has by this mode of reference to these examinations unfortunately but undesignedly opened the door for wide misunderstanding about the proper function of these yearly examinations. An unfriendly spirit to true growth in learning, fostered by these annual examinations, has obtained a strong footing in our schools, and it can only be driven out by constant watchfulness and unflagging energy on the part of the teacher.

Syracuse is the central city of the State of New York, and is approached from all directions by great railways. It is a beautiful city, and rated in the census as one of the most healthful of