

## Correspondence.

### SUGGESTIONS.

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL WEEKLY.

THE biennial season of promotion is past, and both hopes and fears have been realized, the former by promotion, the latter by "as you were."

Sometimes even parents, supposed to be sensible, become insane, being infected by the "want to-be-promoted disease," by sympathy with their children, and besiege the head master importunately to let their children go up to the next grade because they have been long enough where they are—not because they are fit for the change. Such appeals we have known to succeed to the detriment of those thus promoted, who are anxious to accompany their comrades in body if not in mind. The children of trustees are very apt to be favored in this way if necessary. A scholar was so disheartened with his inability to work the extra easy problems in the arithmetic paper that he left the room after trying some of them and failing, and did not return to any of the other examinations, therefore had not a single paper in; yet by some wonderful construction being put on his failure he was promoted and went up-stairs to muddle his poor brains instead of learning as he might have done if he had remained where he was.

The long term of six months has much to do with these forced promotions, for it is to the mind of youth a very long time indeed.

If our town schools were taught by specialists, each teaching only one subject, pupils could be sent up from each class to that above it every month, and still be under the same instructor without the present biennial revolution.

It would have a tendency also to discourage the vice of copying at examinations, which has assumed such proportions that some pupils more cunning than clever or honest manage to get through the present tests by this vile means.

A change is urgently needed in this direction, and I hope it will receive it soon.

Yours truly,

Peterboro', Jan. 18, 1886.

C. L. S.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[ALL communications for this department must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, though not necessarily for publication; they must refer to the work of education; their language must be definite and terse; they must be on slips of paper separate from all other correspondence; and they must be so written that they can be sent directly to the printer. No other communications can be taken notice of. Correspondents answering or referring to any question are requested to give the number of the question for convenience of reference.]

**No. 8.** Q.—(a) What Latin is required for the next second-class examination? (b) Can I try the second and third-class examinations in the same year? (c) What text-book in chemistry would you recommend for preparing myself for the second-class examination? (d) Can you recommend a better Algebra than Todhunter's for this examination?—N. P. G., Carleton.

A.—(a) *Bellum Britannicum*; *Cato Major*; *Aeneid I.*, vv. 1-304. (b) No. (c) Reynolds' *Experimental Chemistry* is authorized. Miller's is a very good book. (d) No. But use in conjunction with Todhunter, McLellan's *Handbook*.

**No. 9.** Q.—(a) What are the best histories, English and Canadian, to place in the hands of

pupils of the 3rd and 4th classes of the public schools? (b) What are the best text-books in physics and in trigonometry for candidates for first-class certificates, grade "C"?—TEACHER, Glascott.

A.—(a) We believe that text-books in English and Canadian history are being prepared. We know of nothing better to use in the meantime than the *Epoch Series* for English history, and *Jeffers' Primer* for Canadian history. (b) For statics and dynamics *Magnus* contains enough. *Wormell* is a little too difficult, though a better book. *Gross* is too diffuse. For hydrostatics we know of nothing better than *Hamblin Smith*. Balfour Stewart's *Physics*, if well taught and understood, covers all the ground. For trigonometry there is no better elementary text-book than *Hamblin Smith's*.

**No. 10.** Q.—What are the selections in literature (third-class) for 1887?—J. W. S.

A.—The selections have not yet been announced, but they will probably be from Thomson, and will include the "Winter and Hymn" from the "Seasons," Canto I. of the "Castle of Indolence" and "Rule Britannia." It has been suggested that the selections for third-class literature shall be taken from the "High School Reader" in course of preparation.

**No. 11.** Q.—(a) What is the best handbook for geometrical, freehand, and perspective drawing? (b) What are the best text-books in drawing for entrance examination?

A.—(a) There is no one handbook: See answer to Q. "No. 7." (b) Numbers 3, 4, 5, of the *Canadian Drawing Course*. See Official Regulations on next page.

**No. 12.** Q.—(a) Does "none" require a singular or a plural verb; or sometimes one and sometimes the other? "There is none righteous."—"Living or dying, none were blest." Are these correct? (b) What and where is Shebandowan? Entr. Geog., 1877.—C. A. C., Maxwell.

A.—(a) Etymologically "none" equivalent to "not one") is singular. It is, however, now-a-days, frequently used partitively and as a plural.

**No. 13.** Q.—What do the terms "précis-writing" and "indexing" mean? Is there any text-book on the subject?—TEACHER, Bluevale.

A.—See page 693, Vol. II., EDUCATIONAL WEEKLY. There is no text-book and there is no need of any. The Longmans some years ago published a little treatise on the subject by the Rev. John Hunter, M.A. Take an ordinary description, account, or letter, and write a short, pithy abstract of it, in which you have omitted no essential statement, and you have made a précis of it.

**No. 14.** Q.—How can précis-writing be taught by teachers who have not access to documents suitable for summarizing? Materials taken from books seem lifeless!—SUBSCRIBER.

A.—In the daily papers one can always find materials.

**No. 15.** Q.—Are Canadian Professional School certificates of the Second and First class accepted in all the States? If not in all, what States do not accept them?—A. T. H., London.

A.—We believe that they are not legally acceptable in any State. But in some of the States the holder of a Canadian certificate may, on application to the county or state superintendent, have his certificate endorsed. It is a matter of courtesy, however, and not of right.

## Educational Intelligence.

PORT PERRY High School has organized a literary society.

MR. G. R. WATSON, B.A., has been appointed classical master in Whitby Collegiate Institute.

MR. HOGARTH, B.A., has been added to the staff teachers at the Strathroy Collegiate Institute.

SEAFORTH High School has an attendance of 135. Of these nearly one half are taking advanced work.

MR. W. D. ECKERT, of London East, has been re-engaged as head master of the public schools at a salary of \$800.

MISS JENNIE STORK, late of Hamilton Training Institute, is to teach in Brampton High School at a salary of \$500.

MR. WM. ROTHWELL, formerly of the Perth Collegiate Institute, has been engaged at Dutton, in Western Ontario, at a salary of \$1,000.

THE Brampton High School Board has authorized the purchase of \$160 worth of instruments and chemicals for the use of physics and chemistry classes.—*Peel Banner*.

MR. WM. ROTHWELL, B.A., late of Perth Collegiate Institute, and Mr. Ralph Ross, of Toronto University, have been appointed first and second masters of the Dutton High School.

THE Richmond Street Public School, Amherstburg, is crowded. Those pupils who do not attend regularly lose their seats, as there is not a sufficient number of desks to accommodate all.—*Echo*.

A GERMAN school master who has served faithfully for upwards of fifty years, was recently retired by the Imperial Government upon an annual pension of thirty-six dollars and seven metres of fire-wood.

At a meeting of the High School Board of Petrolia, Mr. N. Kellet, of Vigo, County of Simcoe, was engaged as second assistant teacher of the Petrolia High School. Mr. Brebner was appointed first assistant.

MR. RICHARD LEWIS, teacher for 1886 in Harwich, while in St. Thomas, fell from a window in the third floor of the Queen's Hotel, a distance of thirty feet. As far as can be learned he was not seriously injured.—*St. Thomas Times*.

THE staff of Simcoe High School, for 1886, is composed as follows: D. S. Paterson, B.A., head master, English and classics; Robt. F. Knowles, mathematics and science; W. A. Phillips, modern languages and history.

THE Ottawa College Debating Club lately held a debate on "Whether it is better to be born a boy than a girl." After a learned discussion the umpire was so perplexed that he reserved his decision until after the summer vacation.—*Almonte Times*.