

# The Educational Review.

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## THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.

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No REVIEW was issued in July.

THE new text-book on Canadian History has been received and will be reviewed next month.

As the closing days in June may have brought many regrets to the conscientious teacher of opportunities not fully taken advantage of to do the best for pupils, so let the opening in August bring matured plans for better work, a determination to make this year a great stride in advance of last year in doing more for the pupil, and therefore in doing more for the teacher.

It is gratifying to notice, as well as creditable to our public schools and University, that some of our young lady graduates are competing with such success in the United States. The success of Miss Shaw, of St. John, and the prompt recognition of it by the Boston school authorities, gives rise to some reflections. We have graduated many young ladies from our Maritime Colleges at a very great cost to the public. How many of these have been retained in the Provinces? They may be easily counted. Have any inducements been made to them to remain at

home? The answer may be given in the negative with perfect truth. The School Boards of the cities and towns in the Maritime Provinces have not been able to grasp the idea of the benefit of culture in a teacher. It looks to filling the position as cheaply as possible, as was proposed gravely, and, it might be added, ignorantly, to fill up the gaps in the high schools of one large city at a salary of \$200 per year. Thus our brightest and most highly cultured girls, educated at a great cost by people not by any means opulent, are permitted to do for others what is so much required at home. Can we afford to do this?

If the study of natural science is to be taken seriously in our schools, it seems desirable that pupils should be taught to use their reasoning powers here as well as in mathematics and language. Every branch of natural science, properly taught, has a great disciplinary value. There is as much mental exercise involved in the analysis of a plant as there is in the analysis of a sentence or in mastering a problem in geometry or algebra. And yet the idea is too prevalent that a knowledge of science may be picked up in some general or haphazard fashion, without any special trouble beyond a few directions about observation or assigning lessons from a text-book.

THERE is a growing necessity for a better definition of the regulation providing school privileges in New Brunswick. The undoubted spirit of it is not only that an open school shall be provided for all pupils, but such an one in addition as shall be suitable to the needs of the more advanced, as well as those requiring instruction of an elementary character. It is not ordinarily construed in this way, however, but by many School Boards is taken to mean that the school shall be kept open as long in the year as will insure non-interference by the inspector, and provided with as cheap a teacher as may be procured. For the sake of peace and good neighborhood, many ratepayers desiring an efficient and regular school refrain from active proceedings to insure them. They evidently have not taken into consideration that the denial of sufficient school privileges to their children may be unneighbourly and selfish. While the regulation