

will come the proportionate failures clamoring for a reduction of standard by another peg. An age limit, it is argued, would eliminate this source of pressure.

It might be well for teachers to look into the Education Report at page 33, see to what extent the County Academy average age might suggest a fair age limit for those going up to each grade, and report to the Superintendent of Education for the information of the Council.

ONE LEAVING EXAMINATION.—There are some who think that some of the annoyances of the present system of examination would be obviated by the abolition of the grade IX and possibly grade X examination. If no change should be made in our present "junior leaving examination" of grade XI, this would mean that the "B" examination could be passed without the study of Canadian history, or British history, or Botany, or Bookkeeping, or Chemistry, or Drawing, or Arithmetic, or Agriculture. It would not therefore be the equivalent of our present teachers' pass of grade XI. The honest teachers in the fifty fairly equipped high schools and Academies would teach, let us assume, the work of grades IX and X faithfully. But some of the 1,000 rural schools doing high school work would soon "beat these high schools out of sight in passing the Leaving Examination." For acting on the lines some follow at present, they would omit all the subjects specified above as the peculiar work of grades IX and X, and prepare directly for XI. If these certificates are of any value we would soon find a certain element leave the good high schools and go to the rural schools where they could get their certificates a year earlier.

But it is suggested also, that this state of affairs might be prevented by adding the subjects specified above to the present "B" examination. This change would produce other symptoms, however. For under these circumstances the leaving class might have to review all the subjects peculiar to the first and second years of the high school course. It would be something like abolishing the examinations at the end of each year in college, and forcing the students to pass all the subjects of the college course for their B. A. at the end of the four year's course. No colleges are drifting in this direction; but they are in the opposite direction; for now the Christmas examination has become a regular institution, making eight portions of the B. A. examination instead of consolidating all examinations into one. In the public schools, too, we find the tendency to be to give the pupils several examinations, in many places monthly, from which their promotion at the end of the year is determined.

The fact is, that the tendency is not to postpone examinations to a late period and make them few, but to bring them on early, and in light instalments.

The French common school leaving examination is as low down as our grade VII—the children passing at the age of 11 very often. In Scotland the new certificate of merit for those leaving the common schools standards is lower than our County Academy Entrance. 12 and 13 is a common age. And an age limit is now suggested when it is found that some pupils come up at 11 years of age.

IN SCOTLAND.—The latest circular of the Scotch Education Department intimates a still further change in its high school examination system lately adopted. An Intermediate examination is given in addition to the Leaving Examination.

Candidates for the Leaving Certificate proper must be seventeen years of age, and must have attended at a recognized high school for four years.

Candidates for the Intermediate Certificate must be fifteen years of age, and must have attended at a recognized high school for two years.