

EDITORIAL NOTES.

HAPPY New Year to all the readers of THE MONTHLY. Our wishes to the supporters of our magazine are expressed in the following lines :—

STRENGTH.

He will give strength : when thine is failing fast,
He shall sustain thee on the toilsome way :
Till the long wilderness be overpast,
Thou shalt "go forward" ever day by day.
His hand shall hold thee up, shall lead thee on,
Till the good fight be won !

WE commend to our readers the paper by Professor Cappon of Queen's University, Kingston, read by him last month at the meeting of the Modern Language Association. It will prove helpful to teachers of English in all classes of schools.

WE congratulate Queen's on its jubilee ; on the strength and efficiency of its staff and management :

Yet I doubt not thro' the ages one increasing purpose runs,
And the thoughts of men are widen'd with the process of the suns.

ROBERT BROWNING.

ONE of the two great English poets of the present day has passed away. Perhaps never has any poet had such enthusiastic advocates, such determined detractors, but not even the latter denied his possession of great intellectual power. His position in English poetry is remarkable ; in the works of almost every other poet there can be traced the influence of a kindred writer ; not so with Browning, he stands alone. The wide range of his work is also remarkable ; what can be more melodious or more easily understood than "Home Thoughts from Abroad?" while on the other hand, one has long been weary of the varied joke on Browning's obscurity. The poet was born in 1812, his first

work was published when he was twenty-one, in 1846 he married Elizabeth Barrett, England's greatest poetess, who died in 1861, and on the 12th of December last Robert Browning died in Venice. It is now thought that the works on which his fame will rest are Dramatic Lyrics, "Christmas Eve and Easter Day," and "The Ring and the Book."

OUTLOOK

UPON a recent occasion the Minister of Education stated that there are 17,000 pupils attending the High Schools of Ontario. Of this number 8,000 are in training for the teaching profession, and of those who left these schools last year less than a thousand returned to the farm.

The total number of teachers of all grades in Ontario is 7,500, and the annual loss by leaving the work of teaching for various reasons is less than 1,100. Far too large a number ; but what is to be done with the army of good young men and women who are preparing for the profession of teaching?

The facts in this case are these : There are 116 High Schools and Collegiate Institutes actively engaged in preparing pupils to pass the non-professional examinations of the different grades of teachers' certificates. The attendance at these schools is annually becoming larger, and owing to the increased efficiency of these schools and the larger attendance, the number who pass the requisite standard for teachers' certificates is correspondingly larger. The competition for position as teacher is very keen, so much so that the teachers of experience and power are being driven out from their life work, for they cannot live upon the miserable pittance which is offered to them by trustees