

tors cost the Province about \$9,000 a year, and the annual Intermediate Examination, counting all expenses, will in future amount to at least \$8,000, a total expenditure of not less than \$17,000 to apportion \$20,000! Even allowing for the blessings conferred on our schools by inspection, the cost of distribution is out of all proportion to the sum distributed. An effort is now being made by some Boards to draw attention to this subject, and, as our Local Legislature does not seem to be overwhelmed with business, possibly next session the question of Departmental expenses may attract more attention than it has done. Educational matters are treated from a non-political point of view, and will probably increase in interest as the system of public instruction becomes developed, and the relations of the Minister are better understood. On behalf of our High Schools, the burden of which is becoming very heavy in some localities, we hope that

some remedy will be provided for the state of matters to which we have called attention. If this Intermediate Examination had many praiseworthy features, matters would not be so bad, but with the exception of a few doctrinaires, all engaged in educational work agree that its advantages are far outweighed by its defects.

In connection with the subject of Legislative grants, we must impress upon the Department the propriety of prompt half-yearly remittances. It is productive of serious inconvenience to Boards of Trustees to have to wait for weeks, as has too often been the case since Mr. Crooks' assumption of office. Indeed, delay in the matter of payment seems to be characteristic of the present management of the Education Office. It was only the other day that we noticed in a daily paper the complaint of a Normal School student that the allowances due last July are not yet paid over.

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

THE ART OF READING, by Ernest Legouvé. Translated from the French, by Edward Roth. Philadelphia: Claxton, Remsen & Co. 1879.

This work has already been noticed in these pages, but its appearance in a new form by another translator justifies further reference to it. The work itself, without professing to be a text-book on the subject, is something more and higher in its speciality. It is, in fact, an admirable review of the æsthetic principles that underlie and govern the art of delivery, and might be properly regarded as a *précis* of the art of reading. The author, an eminent French dramatic writer, has had intimate associations with the French Theatre, and while his interpretations of the art of delivery abound in excellent practical hints and suggestions on the theory and practice of expression, and the science of vocal physiology, both oratorical and dramatic, every page sparkles with illustrative anec-

dotes of the great French orators, actors, statesmen, and authors of his time. The suggestions on the management of the breath, so important in the economy of vocal force, and on the action of the speaking voice, on rhetorical delivery, and the right method of reading poetry, are invaluable. These are amongst the merits of the original work. But Mr. Roth has added a new attraction to his translation, in the biographical notices of nearly a hundred eminent authors, actors, and artists. Amongst these are the names of Voltaire, Ariosto, Bossuet, Racine, Corneille, Moliere, Montaigne, Cousin, Guizot, Rachel, Talma, and Ristori, as well as interesting and instructive notices of the French Academy, the *Ecole Normale Supérieure*, and the *Theatre Français*. The work altogether, as translated by Mr. Roth, with this admirable appendix, cannot fail to delight and instruct the general reader, as well as the student of elocution.