

A VERY high compliment was paid Acadia College by the invitation extended to Dr. Rand to address the "International Congress of Educators" at the meeting of that body held at the New Orleans Exposition on the 23rd-28th ult. Hon. J. Eaton, Minister of Education at Washington, is president of the congress. President Arthur is the honorary president. Among the distinguished foreigners who took a prominent part in the meetings appear the names of Buisson of Paris; Fitch, Campbell, Lord Reay, and Magnus of London, and Bond, chief librarian of the British Museum, with Brainard, Porter, Angell, and representatives from important educational centres on this side the Atlantic. It is a matter of regret that Dr. Rand found it necessary to decline the invitation.

PRESIDENT SAWYER recently made an announcement concerning marks which modifies somewhat, the system in vogue for some time. Hitherto, in determining the students' standing, equal value has been given to daily recitations and sessional examinations. Under the new arrangement a discrimination is made, in their respective values, in favor of the former, in the ratio of two to one. Thus, the average of a student making, let us say, 6 in daily recitations, and 8 in examinations, will be found by multiplying the 6 by 2, adding the product to the 8, and dividing the sum by 3. In assigning reasons for the change the President said that, while there might be emergencies, in which the faculty of being able to crowd the mind with a number of facts in a short time, would be necessary, he was decidedly of the opinion that it would prove of far more practical value to the student, to be able to make the most of every day. The cultivation of the habit of doing each day's work faithfully, he said, the Faculty deemed of great importance. Upon such students as are influenced at all by marks, the new arrangement will doubtless have the desired effect. For by lessening the value of examinations, all the means, lawful and otherwise, to which the majority of such students resort in order to raise their standing, are discounted, while a notable premium is placed, at the same time, on faithful every-day labor. But there are a large number of students, we believe, whom the announcement neither delights or grieves. It is gratifying to

know that many are endeavouring to make the most of their opportunities without this spur. We pray to be delivered from the man who is studying solely for marks. Though the pet of the professors he is, after all, a nuisance. He is the embodiment of selfishness and will never accept any position which requires time and thought to fill, even though it implies culture. He is usually ignorant of what is transpiring in the world, as he confines himself exclusively to the text-books. But we must forbear. Our ignorance of the real object and meaning of an orthodox *mark* forces us to stop. In the meantime we shall watch with interest, further developments in this department.

IN another column we publish some thoughts from a valued correspondent on the necessity of physical exercise in connection with female education. The subject is not a new one: it has been kept before the thinking public by leading educationists both in Europe and America for more than a quarter of a century. Although during that time some progress has been made, and a good many ridiculous customs abandoned, there is still ample scope for reform in this department of educational work. One of the chief hindrances to a well-organized system of female education based upon the principles of psychology and hygienic law, has been found to be the absurd and pernicious usages of so-called polite society. This vicious conventionalism has been deferred to by those in charge of our female schools with much more grace than its importance merits. Common sense may protest, Science may warn and direct, but Fashion rules the hour. Her mandates are supreme and health and exercise are forced to subserve her purposes. This social fetish, sad to say, becomes at once the object of worship and the altar of sacrifice; yet though votaries are transformed into victims with startling rapidity, others are quickly found to don the livery and seek the shrine. And still polite society is the oracle that formulates the conditions and establishes the ritual of worship. The child is instructed in its mysteries and the plastic frame of youth is distorted in conformity to its laws. The grace of nature is insulted by wicked artifice to adapt it to a perverted standard of beauty. The spontaneous activities so essential to healthy growth are repressed in