

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Deliver not the tasks of might
To weakness, neither hide the ray
From those, not blind, who wait for day,
Tho' sitting girt with doubtful light.

"That from Discussion's lips may fall
With Life, that working strongly, binds—
Set in all lights, by many minds,
So close the interests of all."

We have had another mid-summer examination of our Public Schools for admission, etc., to the High School. The annual result follows of widespread dissatisfaction with the examination papers. Our readers are fully aware that this magazine for years past has had to give voice to the annual dissatisfaction. We have felt compelled to do so, and to ask again and again why these papers are frequently so faulty? Where is the difficulty? Do the gentlemen who prepare these papers understand that it is not an easy matter to set good examination papers for our Public Schools?

Are they misled by the notion that the boys and girls of our Public Schools know but very little and, therefore, it is a matter requiring no special reading and but little thought, to prepare suitable papers for these children? If this is true or only partially true, then it is a pity. Reader, think of the harm inflicted on the scholars of our Public Schools, the injustice done to our teachers of these schools and the set-back given to the different educational interests of Ontario. We ask again a question we have asked before, are these examiners paid sufficiently for the work they have by the Education Department undertaken to warrant them to read carefully and prepare conscientiously for the satisfactory performance of their duty in this respect? We feel called upon to apologize to them for hinting at this possible solution of a long-standing grievance. But we are so bewildered by the continuance of this long-standing weakness in our examinations, year after year,

that we take the liberty of hinting at the possibility of unwise economy having something to do with this very undesirable state of things. Let the reason or reasons be what they may, it is high time that active measures were taken to apply a proper and effective remedy.

We are glad that the Deputy Minister of Education has published the circular given below, directing local examination boards to exercise a certain amount of discretionary power in dealing with unsuitable papers:

THE PHYSIOLOGY PAPERS.

To the editor of the *Mail and Empire*:

SIR,—In order to answer several enquiries, allow me to state, regarding the paper in physiology and temperance submitted at the recent High School Entrance Examination, that no mistake, as has been inferred, was made by the Education Department in using for that examination the question paper intended for the Public School Leaving Examination. The papers submitted to the various candidates correspond to the manuscript copies prepared by the examiners, with such alterations as were duly approved by the three members of the Board, before being printed. It is a rule of the Department to give no directions for printing off papers until the last revisions are duly certified to as correct by the examiners, all documents being preserved.

It may not be generally known that should any objection be raised respecting the character of an examination paper, no special action is