

effect, we are glad that it has been fired. Time, and the powerful auxiliary of science and those other practical studies that seek to win place by the side of the classics, will ultimately tell in diminishing its hitherto imperious claims. We are no indiscriminate enemy of classical culture, but surely the day has come when the educational value of a classical course should be appraised with some regard to studies that as imperatively call for recognition. That the classics have hitherto usurped a place in the curricula of our schools far beyond, we will not say their traditional importance, but that of their practical value, and even as a discipline for the mind, few will now deny. This has long been conceded by the best classical men in England, and it has also been admitted that to the monopoly of this study much of the humiliating ignorance of other important subjects which should have engaged the attention of youth is owing. Here in Canada, at any rate, and in a utilitarian age like the present, sound sense in this matter should prevail, and classical studies, especially for honours, be regulated by some sense of their practical benefit in the after life of the student. Utility, and not the aim of the pedant, should be the object sought after, though in urging this we have full regard to the desirability of retaining a classical and purely literary training in our systems of education, but in some just relation to the other acquirements and studies necessary to make up the well-informed man.

FROM "Whitaker's Almanac" for 1879, a publication that each year increases our admiration of the talent and industry manifested in its compilation, we extract some items of interest concerning the London School Board and the statistics of its work. The Board is composed of fifty elective members (representing the ten districts into which the city is divided), drawn from the ranks of the professional and wealthy-leisured class of the metropolis—some of whom are ladies. Its officers, who take the management of the various bureaux of finance, statistics, school management, industrial schools, school building, etc., are ten in number, and their sa-

larities range from \$1,500 to \$5,000. There are five Inspectors who receive salaries varying from \$1,500 to \$2,250; besides Chief Instructors in singing, drill, and needle-work; an Instructor for the deaf and dumb, and a Kindergarten Instructress. The year's expenditure of the Board, ending March 1878, exceeded five millions dollars, of which sum one and a half million was paid as salary to Teachers; a like sum for the erection of, and addition to, schools; and \$700,000 for the purchase of building sites. From the Almanac we transcribe the following further facts:—

From the establishment of the Board in November, 1870, up to October 29th, 1878, accommodation in permanent schools had been provided for 163,935 children. In addition to this, schools with accommodation for 91,691 are in process of erection, or will be provided in the course of the next two years. At Lady Day last [the Half-Yearly Report for Michaelmas is not yet published] there were upon the rolls of the Board Schools (including certain schools transferred, and temporary schools), 188,092 children. The staff of teachers comprised 2,378 adult teachers, and 1,751 pupil teachers and candidates. The fees charged by the Board range from 1d. to 9d.; the number of school places provided at 1d. being, according to a recent return, 45,933; 91,191 at 2d.; 36,335 at 3d.; 8,225 at 4d.; 2,859 at 6d., and only 87 at 9d. The charges are determined solely by what is believed to be the ability of the parents, and to avoid needless class distinctions they are made uniform in each school. When the census of all the schools in London was taken in 1871, whether efficient or non-efficient, the total number of children on the roll was 320,143. The number of children now upon the roll of efficient schools alone is 447,382; in other words, the roll of efficient schools alone is greater by 127,239 than the total roll of all schools whatever in the beginning of 1871. The number of children sent to industrial schools at the instance of the Board, up to Michaelmas, 1878, was 4,364. In addition, 4,118 other cases had been inquired into by the Industrial Schools Committee, and referred to various voluntary agencies, etc., to be dealt with. The receipts for the year 1878-79 amount to £506,306, which is at the rate of 5'15d. in the pound.

DR. LYON PLAYFAIR, who showed a great interest in educational matters during his visit to this country last year, intends to in-