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THE CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL

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WE are requested to say that it is the intention of the Education Department not to submit a formal paper in Orthoepy at the next entrance examination to the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. The examiner in oral reading, however, will be asked to consider carefully the pronunciation of the candidates.

THE discriminating review of the new Public School History, by Mr. Hunter, which will be found in this number, should have appeared some weeks since, but, in the crowded state of our columns, has been delayed. We have already published two or three critiques of this little book, the one in our issue of September 16th being by a very competent authority, but the interest in the general subject is not yet exhausted. Apart from its discussion of this particular text-book, Mr. Hunter's paper contains some excellent hints for teachers as well as writers of history, which we commend to the special notice of our readers.

OUR thanks are due to the Department of Education for a copy of a pamphlet on the "School System of Ontario," containing, in compact form, a mass of useful information in regard to our Public Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Universities, Industrial and Reformatory Institutes, etc. A copy of this work should be in the hands of every teacher in the Province. It would be very helpful in enabling them to get a clear and comprehensive view of all our educational appliances.

CIRCULAR No. 19 has recently been issued from the Education Department to Headmasters of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. Amongst other items of information conveyed are the facts that, in conformity with a recent change made by the University Senate, the literature for First Class Teachers for 1886-7, in addition to Thomson's Seasons and Southey's "Life of Nelson" as prescribed, will be "The Merchant of Venice;" that a candidate may write for a Second Class Non-Professional Certificate without previously taking a Third; that two examiners will hereafter be required to set each paper for Entrance and for Teachers' Examinations, etc. The circular contains, also, hints and instructions bearing upon the modes of teaching approved in English Grammar, Science, Literature, etc. The criticisms evoked by the late examinations have thus already borne fruit.

THE New Brunswick *Journal of Education* which, by the way, is improving with each issue, says that the Local Government has decided to have a new common school arithmetic published in the Province. We hope the New Brunswick Education Department is not going to follow Ontario's bad example in the text-book business. The worst possible way to get text-books, or books of any kind, is to have them made to order, like a pair of boots.

MR. INGRAM B. OAKES, A.M., in his address before the recent Educational Institute in St. John, N.B., dwelt upon the importance, the condition, and the needs of secondary education in the Province. He pointed out that the influence of the High School upon the lower schools is most salutary, both in stimulating the pupils by attracting them upwards towards its level, and in providing a class of teachers of high qualifications. He also dwelt upon the fact that the High Schools are the pillars on which the University rests. "To them it looks for its supply. Through them it draws its life." "It is from this standpoint, says Mr. Oakes, and in view of the value of University education as related to the civilization of our age and country, and as affecting most vitally all the lower grades of instruction, that the importance of the High School culminates." Mr. Oakes' description of the Grammar Schools of New Brunswick is, we fear, more truthful than flattering. Their efficiency is sadly hindered by reason of their being burdened with classes below the proper High School grade.