

It is difficult to know how some men reach their conclusions. At a late conference of headmasters of England, a discussion took place on the training of teachers, showing, as the report says, a growing opinion in favor of giving professional training to young men who propose to become assistant teachers in our public schools. It seems somewhat late in the day to be discussing such a question. We have had training colleges for elementary teachers for now over half a century, and whatever be the defects of these colleges we have never heard anyone suggest that elementary teachers would be improved by having no training. Dr. James, the highly successful head-master of Rugby, whose opinion properly carries with it great weight, is reported as having said that he did not believe in the training of teachers, and that the only instance he knew of its being tried was a failure. The public will judge for themselves whether a single instance, carried on under unspecified conditions, justifies so definite a conclusion. There is surely no one in Canada who is likely to hold with Dr. James in his opinion, high though his success as a teacher may be.

An admirably lucid and highly important volume on "Juvenile Offenders," written by Mr. Douglas Morrison, and published by Mr. Fisher Unwin, makes its appearance at what might be called, in two distinct senses, "the psychological moment." In the first place, the Education Department has just appointed a committee to report on the education of children of defective intellect. The committee are instructed to enquire into the existing systems for the education of feeble-minded and defective children, not under the charge of guardians, and not idiots or imbeciles, and to advise as

to any changes, either with or without legislation, that may be desirable; to report particularly upon the best practical means for discriminating between the educable and non-educable classes of feeble-minded and defective children, and between children who may properly be taught in ordinary elementary schools by ordinary methods and those who should be taught in special schools; and to enquire and report as to the provision of suitable elementary education for epileptic children, and to advise as to any changes that may be desirable.

The Association of Headmasters of England, whose report for the past year gives evidence of much useful work, was formed in 1890, with the idea of bringing uniformity into the examinations which admit into public secondary schools, of attempting to guide secondary legislation, and of fully informing the public on all questions of secondary education. Starting with forty members, in the course of six years it has expanded to some four hundred. Originally it was recruited from the masters of schools which come immediately next to those represented at the Headmasters' Conference, and there was some apparent rivalry between the two organizations, for the conference passed a resolution that it was undesirable for headmasters to belong to both societies. In December, 1895, however, this resolution was withdrawn, and to-day more than a third of the headmasters who belong to the conference belong also to the association. There is possibly room for some such association in each of the Canadian provinces.

Sir Joshua Fitch, late Senior Inspector of the Education Department, delivered an address at the School of