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Editorial Notes.

WE are often asked to recommend some good practical work in English composition as an aid to teachers of this subject. We have been reminded of an admirable little work which was published in 1890, prepared by the late lamented W. H. Huston, M.A. We did not know, until the other day, that this book, "100 Lessons in English Composition" was now to be had, but we learn that a hundred or two copies are yet in stock. We have made arrangements whereby we can fill orders for it promptly. Price twenty-five cents. It is thoroughly practical.

WE offer an apology to our subscribers for the lateness of the last two numbers of the JOURNAL. The fact is that the shortness of the month of February threw us out of our usual routine, in spite of our best efforts. When one has full employment for every waking hour, and a good many more, in a month of thirty or thirty-one days, the intervention of one of only twenty-eight days is pretty sure to upset some of his arrangements. There is, happily for us, only one February in the year. This number we hope to have out almost on time, and henceforth we shall make every effort to keep our engagements punctually.

SOME of our subscribers seem to have overlooked the notice of the forthcoming meeting of the Ontario Educational Association, though we gave nearly the whole of our first page to it, in the number dated

February 15th. The Association meets in the Educational Department buildings, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, March 27th, 28th, and 29th. The programme is full and attractive. The meeting of this Association ought to become one of the chief annual events in the lives of all Ontario teachers, to be looked forward to as a time of professional reunion and intellectual feasting. The Association should be, and we hope will be, in increasing degree, a great force in shaping not only professional opinion but educational legislation.

IN answer to "Can You Explain This?" I would say in a word, the statement made by Exchange is not a fact. Any person can prove the truth of what I say by trial. Any person capable of extracting the square root of 65 can find the exact root of the square, which is $8\frac{1}{8}$ inches diminished by an insignificant fraction of an inch. There are no tricks in mathematics.

CARLETON PLACE.

W. J. PATTERSON.

WE thank Mr. Patterson for his note. We scarcely suppose that any one of our readers could accept seriously the statement that one square inch of a bit of cardboard would disappear in the process of cutting and arranging the pieces in a certain way. If any of the younger ones tried the experiment and failed to see "the point," their time will not have been wasted if it has served to impress upon their minds the truth so well stated by Mr. Patterson, that "there are no tricks in mathematics."

DON'T fail to read "C. C.'s" letter on "Supplementary Reading." We have had several inquiries of late for books of the kind described in that letter, and we regard the inquiries as a most hopeful sign of the time. Those who have made such inquiries will be interested in the information given in this letter. Those teachers whose pupils know nothing of the delights of such reading must have a hard time to keep the restless minds attentive and the restless hands out of mischief. If they can manage to get some such literature within easy reach they will find it a most effective auxiliary, both in teaching and in school government. And then who can limit the saving and salutary effect the formation of a taste for such reading may have on all the after-life of the boys and girls.

THE JOURNAL for April 15th will be Arbor Day number. We invite contributions. Will not those who have knowledge, scientific, practical, or artistic, which would be helpful to others in the work of school decoration and tree planting, kindly give our readers the benefit of it? Descriptions of successful methods of using the day, which have been tried in former years, will also be in order. We should, in short, be grateful for a number of brief, pointed papers from those who have given thought and work to the question of the most profitable way of spending the day, or who can point out good results which have followed on former occasions. Shall we not have them? The law of mutual help is a law of the higher life. Help us, please, to make the number in question the best Arbor Day number which has yet appeared. In so doing you may help hundreds of your fellow-teachers.

AN important discussion has been going on of late in some of the local newspapers in this neighborhood on the subject of "Home Work" in schools. Parents have written, complaining bitterly of the undue and unhealthy pressure to which their children are being subjected. Our own views on the question have been repeatedly expressed. We are persuaded that much injury is being done, especially in the case of children of tender years, by too long hours in school and too much work at home. Apart from the danger to health, and the injurious effect upon the delicate nervous organization of children, we protest against the practice because it tends to take the freshness out of child-life, at a time when nature demands that a large portion of the day should be given up to the sports which are at once the necessity and the delight of childhood. Many of these who have written to the press attribute the evil to the necessity imposed by the promotion and other examinations. It seems to us that, in the cities at least, it is largely an outcome of the rigid grading. But whatever the cause, a remedy must be found. Parents should not suffer their children to be sacrificed upon the altar of any system. Intelligent educators should insist upon being the masters, not the slaves, of their systems and methods. The subject demands fuller consideration than it has yet received. We should be glad to hear from our readers in regard to it.