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## Table of Contents.

|                           | PAGE. |                           | PAGE. |
|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| EDITORIAL NOTES.....      | 225   | EDITORIAL—                |       |
| PRIMARY DEPARTMENT—       |       | The Old and the New....   | 232   |
| Marching.....             | 226   | A Well-Founded Com-       |       |
| Anticipating Holidays.... | 226   | plaint.....               | 232   |
| SPECIAL PAPER—            |       | Ventilation of School     |       |
| Well Doing—Its Own Re-    |       | Houses.....               | 233   |
| ward.....                 | 227   | Language and Grammar....  | 233   |
| EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS—     |       | LITERARY NOTES.....       | 233   |
| West Victoria Teachers'   |       | ENGLISH—                  |       |
| Convention.....           | 228   | A Visit to Longfellow's   |       |
| QUESTION DRAWER.....      | 229   | Home.....                 | 234   |
| EXAMINATION PAPERS—       |       | Questions and Answers.... | 235   |
| University of Toronto,    |       | BOOK NOTICES, ETC.....    | 235   |
| Annual Examinations,      |       | SCHOOL-ROOM METHODS—      |       |
| 1890.....                 | 230   | Advanced Arithmetic....   | 236   |
| HINTS AND HELPS—          |       | FOR FRIDAY AFTERNOON—     |       |
| A Few Misused Words....   | 231   | The Wind and the Moon.... | 236   |
| Indoor Noonings.....      | 231   | Our Future.....           | 236   |
| Music.....                | 231   |                           |       |

## ✻ Editorial Notes. ✻

THE question of free text-books for the Public schools is under consideration in the State of New York. The School Committee of Pawtucket, R.I., have reported in favor of the innovation.

WE hope none of our readers will overlook the very interesting account of a visit to Longfellow's Home, which appears in the English Department of this number. With this graphic and charming picture of the poet's environments in the mind, one can turn to his poems, especially those rich in local references, with heightened pleasure.

WE commend the following suggestion of the New York *School Journal*, to our School boards in Canada, especially to those in the cities and towns, where it could be more easily acted upon:—

Boston will do well if she gives every teacher in her employ the ninth year, as a vacation year, on half pay. This will be to her instructors more than a year of jubilee. It will be a year of solid improvement and preparation for better work. It is advocated on the plea that it will keep those in the service "vigorous, cheerful and progressive. And it will."

DR. GEIKIE, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Trinity College, took the opportunity afforded by the Annual Banquet of the Faculty and Students of the Medical Department of that University, to protest with warmth against the injustice done to Trinity by the restoration of a Medical Department to the Provincial University. There does certainly

seem to be something unfair and anomalous in the arrangement by which, as Dr. Geikie forcibly puts it, it results that in "Ontario in 1890, we find our chartered Medical Colleges—chartered by the Provincial Government—keenly opposed by the competing Medical Department of the University of the Province, with which some of these Colleges, as in the case of Trinity, are in affiliation!"

"BOOKS, before they are authorized should be a certain time before the public and be open to the criticism of teachers. Advice as to text-books should come from teachers, who should be the best judges in these matters. If all text-books were submitted to a committee of teachers before being authorized, it might improve the matter and lessen the price." So said Mr Gunne, in an address on the subject of text-books, at the Elgin Teachers' Association. Mr. Gunne's fellow-teachers evidently thought his words well said, as do we, for they appointed a committee to draft a resolution on the subject of text-books and report at the next meeting of the Association. The subject of text-books and kindred questions are likely to be earnestly discussed within the next year or two in Ontario.

OUR correspondents from Queen's will please accept our thanks for the information kindly given in the last and current numbers, in response to our request for particulars about the Seminary method. The plan of having the departments of the library which are cognate to special subjects of study in the courses, distributed and made easily accessible to those requiring them, instead of having all the books kept in a single room in which facilities for prolonged reading cannot easily be furnished, is an excellent one. So too, the method of throwing students upon their own resources, with the minimum of help and guidance necessary to enable them to make the best use of their time, is the only method that accords with true pedagogical principles. Of course the more advanced the student, the farther this system can and should be carried.

IN the course of an address on Reading at the last session of the Oxford Teachers' Institute—of which we had hoped some one

would favor us with a report—Prof. S. H. Clarke, Teacher of Elocution in McMaster and Trinity Universities, is reported as having said that the Canadians are atrocious pronouncers. He instanced such sounds as those of *ir* in "bird," *or* in "work," *a* in "ask," "cask," etc., and also in "fall," "ball," "call," etc. We fear there is too much truth in Mr. Clarke's criticism. The subject has been too much neglected in all our schools, from the University downward. We have noticed very faulty pronunciations by honor graduates of the University, men of ability and high attainments. Teachers and students should have at their elbows copies of the best pronouncing dictionaries and should turn their pages by day and by night, with a view to lend their aid in preserving the purity of their unique mother tongue.

"WE most decidedly and heartily give our support to the doctrine that, as a rule, children and young people do not need alcohol and are much better without it." So declares the London *Lancet*. The friends of Temperance in England, will be glad, even at this late day, of so unequivocal an opinion from so high an authority. In Canada, where thousands of children and young people, yes and people of middle age too, can be pointed out all over the land, who have never used alcoholic beverages in any form, and who are yet as healthful, stalwart and active in body and mind as any people in the world, the statement comes not only as a truth, but almost as a truism. "*They are better without it,*" is the great lesson which should be taught and emphasized in every school in the land, seeing that it has the two-fold sanction of hygienic science and of Christian morality. Suppose the *Lancet's* dictum, "they do not need it and are much better without it," were universally accepted and acted upon throughout Canada to-day, and that from this time forth all Canadian children were taught from childhood to manhood and womanhood, not only to do without alcoholic drinks, but to understand their injurious effects on body and brain, who can doubt that the next generation would be virtually a generation of "teetotallers." Just think what this would mean in regard to the characters and morals of the coming Canadian.