

PUBLIC OPINION.

OVER-TRAINED.—In a certain leading Missionary Institution in our country the Principal says: "Yes, we know our teaching is poor. We know our teachers are untrained. I wish this might be remedied; but of the two we get better results, our pupils *are reached more vitally* by the refined, cultured, *untrained* college young women than through the narrow-visioned, pedagogical, *trained* Normal graduates." The testimony of this Principal should not be ignored. He speaks from long years of experience. What does he mean?—*The Popular Educator*.

TRULY SAID.—The young teacher generally lays a great deal of stress upon methods and, if inclined to be pedantic, he lifts into much prominence mere knowledge and the examinations he invents to search for it. But we have noticed that the abler and more thoughtful, as age comes and experience widens, while respecting the judgments of their youth, place a much higher estimate upon the ability that is able to influence thought and motive. Here is a bit of evidence in point from the confessions of an Ohio superintendent:—"I think we test our schools too much by mere intellectual acquisition, and some of you who know me, will perhaps be surprised at that statement. I certainly was at one period of my reflections upon this subject a little less inclined to give much prominence as I now give to the purely human side of education. But the education that does not result in making a boy gentle, more kind, more courteous, less thoughtful of self, more thoughtful of others, more sympathetic, more helpful, more appreciative, more obedient, more courageous in the maintenance of right, more highminded than he was on entering school is a failure,

no matter how much intellectual knowledge he may have." All of which is true to the letter.—*The Popular Educator*.

WHAT WE ARE COMING TO.—Nanking at the latest dates is described (says the *Daily News*) as full of strangers on account of the triennial examinations. Not far short of one hundred thousand visitors were calculated to be in the city, of whom twenty thousand were bachelors of arts, or students who, having taken the first degree, were now to compete for the rank of Ku'Kiu. If they succeed they then go to Peking for the final examination; but only about two hundred were expected to succeed. Similar scenes were going on in other provincial cities—in Wuchang, for example, which had fifteen thousand bachelors of arts within its walls. "In the wake of these Confucian scholars," says a local journal, "comes a rout of all manner of traders, painters, scroll-sellers, tea-pot venders, candle merchants, spectacle mongers, servants, and friends." The great examination hall at Wangchu is described as being composed of a series of pens shut off from each other in little rows of twenty or thirty, the whole resembling a huge cattle market in the centre of the city. When the actual examination begins, martial law is practically proclaimed. In the central tower is a sword, and any misdemeanour within the limits renders the offender liable to instant death. The examination, which consists chiefly of the writing of essays on the "five classics" and "miscellaneous subjects," is divided into three sessions of about thirty-six hours each, with intervals of a day. The strain is said to be very great, and at every examination several victims die in the hall.