

account of their importunity, or on account of the influence they are able to bring than for their ability.

That some examiners I have worked with were not honest I have found out by bitter experience; and I have no doubt other examiners could say the same.

Then there is the hurry necessary on account of the number of papers to be read, and the anxiety of candidates to know the results. It is not pleasant to report that 50 papers were read yesterday, just after another person has reported 90. Most of the work is done in summer, and occasionally the heat is very oppressive. At such a time an examiner is apt to think of many things he would rather do than read papers. Or the examiner may be suffering with headache, dyspepsia, or some other ill which makes him practically unfit for the work.

Another reason why an appeal may be necessary is because it often happens that one or more of the questions, or a note or directions to the candidates may be ambiguous, and susceptible of two or more meanings. In such cases, I understand, it is the practice to send for the examiner who prepared the questions, to tell the examiner who reads the answers what he meant to say. This is an injustice to the candidates, because they have no better chance to guess what a careless or blundering writer meant than the man whose business it is to read the answers. I never heard of a judge sending for the legislators who enacted a statute to find out what they meant to have for the law, when there was a doubt as to what the interpretation ought to be; and yet that would be just as reasonable.

Another reason why an appeal is necessary, but one for which the present regulations fail to afford re-

lief, is owing to the possibility of different candidates' answers being interchanged, and one person getting credit for another person's work. That papers have been so changed is to be presumed from the fact that candidates have sometimes received more marks than they could possibly have obtained for the answers they gave in. That the authorities of the Department believe this to be the case is evident from the fact that they persistently refuse to allow any investigation to take place which might reveal carelessness on the part of officials and injustice to candidates. If the Department had confidence that no errors were possible, there could be no object in refusing the fullest investigation.

When it is remembered that the number of papers handled is very large, and that by a slight error the papers of one candidate may easily be exchanged with another, there surely ought to be some remedy by which a candidate might be sure that he received credit for his own work, and not for that of another person.

I do not advocate the giving to candidates any advantages they should not have. To pass an Entrance candidate who does not deserve to pass, may be to deprive that candidate of another year at a public school; because many pupils leave school when they have passed that examination. Or it may tend to lower the standard of the first form of the High School, and retard the progress of every other pupil. To pass a candidate at the Primary Examination who ought not to pass, may result in the ruin of an efficient public school; because there is always a trustee who is willing to dismiss a faithful and successful teacher, and give the position to his son or his daughter, provided that he or she can get a certificate; and there is general-