

The School

"Recti cultus pectora roborant"

Editorial Notes

The Late Principal Groves

In the recent death of Mr. W. E. Groves, for many years Principal of Ryerson Public School, Toronto, the teaching profession in Canada has lost one of its prominent members. At the institution of the Faculty of Education as a part of the University of Toronto in 1907, Mr. Groves was the first man chosen from among the Public School teachers of the city to lecture on the teaching of Public School subjects, and with such acceptance did he perform this function that even after this arrangement for choosing lecturers was superseded by the present one, he was induced by special request of the staff to deliver a short course of lectures every year for the benefit of beginners in teaching.

The school of which he was the head continued to be used as the one among the city Public Schools selected for demonstration and practice purposes, thus forming an integral part of the system of training adopted by the Faculty of Education. Those in the Faculty who had the most to do with practice teaching understood best the value of his work, and his rare qualities as colleague and critic. He had the gift of whole-heartedness. Once convinced that any plan suggested was of real benefit to the young teacher-in-training, he would spare no effort in the carrying out of such a plan, at any sacrifice of his own time and energy. But he was discriminating and firm with all, and the slacker found in Mr. Groves no sympathy with his unlaborious futility. His fair-mindedness and balanced judgment gave weight to his opinions, and finality to his decisions in doubtful cases. In this respect his loss to the Faculty will be irreparable.

The two-fold position which he occupied as Principal of a great school and director of practice-teaching in the Faculty of Education was one that demanded peculiar discretion and tact, if the combined role was to be played with fairness to both positions. His unqualified success in this double role indicated a rich endowment of common sense. Most sincerely do the members of the Faculty of Education lament the loss of a colleague whose qualifications admirably fitted him for his unique and difficult position, and whose wholesome and genial personality made it a pleasure to know him and a privilege to work with him.