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Editorial Notes.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our readers!

ARE you really enjoying the work of the schoolroom? While enjoying the holiday rest, as every teacher of course does, can you look forward to the re-opening with pleasurable anticipations? The question is important, for the degree of enjoyment which one finds in his work is a measure of his fitness for it and success in it. It is a question whether anyone, in any profession or sphere of labor, can do the best work of which he is capable until he has learned to find a real pleasure, a positive sense of enjoyment, in the doing of it. Of course, in the teaching profession some are much more happily circumstanced than others. There are many who are overworked and underpaid; many who have to struggle on day after day amidst the most depressing discouragements. We know full well how hard it often is under such circumstances to maintain an even temper and a cheerful deportment, to say nothing of either enthusiasm or delight.

THE "Case in Court," some of the details of which are given in another column, will evoke but one response, not only from teachers, but from all law-abiding citizens. The remarks of the judge who pronounced the sentence, though severe, were just, reasonable, and right. The man who undertakes to take the law in such a case into his own hands, and to correct what he conceives to be the wrongs of his child, in such brutal fashion, needs to be taught, and must be taught, that the law of the stronger is not the law of Canada, and shall not be permitted to become so. It would not be correct to say, as some might, that that law of the stronger is the law which prevailed in the schoolroom when the flogging was done, for the law of the land—approved by the majority, else it would not continue on the statute book—recognizes the teacher as, for the time being, in place of the parent, and endued, for purposes of school-discipline, with the parental right to inflict

moderate corporal chastisement upon the person of the child. There is, we believe, a considerable and increasing number of parents who consider this law and the practice which it sanctions to be wrong in principle. We confess to a good deal of sympathy with that view. In fact, we are pretty confident that the time is not far distant when it will prevail. In the meantime those who seriously and conscientiously object to the practice have no resource, so far as we can see, save to withdraw their children from the schools in which the corporal punishment is used, and find other means of educating them, either in some of those Public Schools, of which there are, we believe, not a few, in which that kind of discipline is not used, or in private schools, meanwhile seeking by constitutional means to have the provisions of the Public Schools Act changed in this particular.

STILL ONWARD.

COMPARED with the blanket sheets which were the rule in newspaperdom not many years since, and still are in many quarters, the present size and shape of THE EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL are convenience embodied. But the question with the wide-awake, ambitious journalist is not whether such and such a shape and size are relatively neat and convenient, but whether they are absolutely the neatest and most convenient form in which the periodical can be placed in the hands of its readers. Modern newspaper enterprise will be satisfied with nothing less than the ideal. At least such is the spirit which pervades some of the most progressive offices, among which is to be found, as a matter of course, the office from which Canada's oldest, largest, and—may we not, after its long and successful career, say without boasting or violation of modesty?—best, educational periodical is published. In this spirit, as the old year was hastening to its close, and the coming of a new one was being heralded, a council, or rather a series of councils, was held to debate the question whether, all things considered, a still

better shape could not be found for THE JOURNAL. After debate, the answer was an emphatic Yes. It was decided that the page is still too large by half. The ideal form for any periodical of considerable size, appearing not less than once a week, is the magazine form. Everyone knows how much easier to hold and to read is a magazine than a newspaper, and how the smaller page facilitates classification and indexing, making it much less difficult for the reader to find at a glance the article he wants at the moment. The change will be found to be a double improvement in this case from the fact that THE JOURNAL is so comprehensive in its scope and aims, covering the whole broad field which extends from the primary school to the university. It has been our aim, and the steadily increasing favor with which the paper has met year after year affords the best proof that the aim has been successfully attained, to let no number of THE JOURNAL go out which does not contain matter interesting and helpful to teachers of every grade. But with the present twenty folio pages changed to forty book pages the work of arranging will be greatly facilitated. Again, those of our patrons, a large and wise constituency, who wish to preserve and file the numbers of their JOURNAL from year to year, will be able to do so with much greater satisfaction when the result is a book of handy size for reading or reference, which may be bound and placed on their shelves with other volumes.

The sum of the matter, then, is that it is now decided that the old established EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL shall, two weeks hence, January 15th, appear as a neat magazine of forty pages and upwards, as occasion may demand.

Subscribers will, of course, be prepared for an intimation that this change will necessitate some increase in price. They will, therefore, be all the more surprised and gratified to learn that no such increase is proposed, but, on the contrary, the publishers hope, should their reasonable expectations seem likely to be realized, to be able at an early date to make an actual reduction in the subscription price, relying on the increased circulation which is confidently expected to save them from loss.