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Editorials.

THE ENTRANCE JOURNAL.

WHATEVER may be anyone's personal opinions with regard to the merits or demerits of a graded system of Public Schools, with stated examinations as the tests of fitness for promotion from one form to another, and from schools of a certain grade to those of the next higher grade, it is a fact which no teacher in Ontario can afford to ignore that we have such a system firmly rooted in this province. Of the various examinations required under this system that familiarly known as the "Entrance" is the most important, inasmuch as it affects by far the greatest number of pupils. Constituting, as it does, the straight gate of admission to the secondary or High Schools of the province, it becomes a matter of the deepest concern to every boy or girl whose ambition it is to pass even a step beyond the curriculum of the Public School. Hence no Public School teacher can afford to lose sight of it for a moment, in the work of his school. Any such teacher who should say, as we dare say not a few of them may feel, "I am ham-

pered by the rigidity of the bonds which the unyielding curriculum, and the necessities of the Entrance Examination, under the shadow of which I am always working, impose upon me. I could much better perform my duties as a teacher if left more freedom to do my work in my own way. I will, therefore, pay no attention to the special examinations, take no pains to acquaint myself with the kind and style of the questions usually set, and seek no helps from any quarter with a view to giving my pupils the best possible preparation for those examinations"—such a teacher would quickly find that he was merely running against a stone wall; committing professional suicide, so far as any prospect of success as a Public School teacher was concerned.

What is true in regard to the teacher is equally true in regard to the teacher's paper. The mission of the teacher's paper is to aid the teacher in his actual work. Both reason and experience have taught us that there is no paper so directly helpful, and, consequently, so widely acceptable, as that which keeps in close practical touch with the various examinations. Hence we have from the first given a good deal of attention to this class of subjects. It would be easy, and, in some respects, both pleasant and profitable, to give THE EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL a more distinctively literary, or literary and scientific, character, but to do so would be to neglect the first and chief wants of our constituents. We have always subordinated all other considerations to the practical, with what success let the large and growing circulation, and the frequent enlargements and improvements which the different publishers have been able to make, attest.

But, while we have always given a large amount of space and attention to the various examinations, especially the "Entrance," thus rendering welcome and efficient aid to the teacher in the school-room, as thousands have from time to time most cordially assured us, we have always felt more or less strongly the desirability of coming into more direct contact with the pupils themselves. To this end, the former publishers of THE JOURNAL tried the experiment about seven years ago, as many of our present readers will remember, of publishing in connection with THE JOURNAL a little paper, well illustrated, for the especial use of boys and girls in the Public Schools. It was called, *School Work and Play*. The aid of some of the foremost educators in the province was enlisted, and an excellent periodical was the result. But the enterprise was in advance of the time, and in

advance also of the practical experience of the publishers, and could not be made to pay expenses. Publication was, therefore, discontinued after a few months' trial. THE JOURNAL resumed its former methods, and has ever since gone on doing its best to supply, within the compass of a paper designed exclusively for teachers, the wants of both teachers and pupils. Its success has been marked, not financially—the conditions and limitations under which an educational paper must be published, if published at all, in Canada, preclude the possibility of large financial returns to any publisher—but marked as determined by the best of all evidence, the verdict of the teachers themselves.

Still, however, there has always been a felt want in the lack of direct communication with the pupil, as well as with the teacher. The matter bearing upon the Entrance and other examinations provided for the teachers, who were the readers of THE JOURNAL, could not always be given in the shape best suited to the comprehension and needs of the pupils, and, if it could have been, the necessarily high price of a paper so large and so expensively produced precluded all possibility of getting it into the hands of the children. In view of these difficulties the publishers commenced about the first of the current year the publication of a special sheet, designed exclusively for the use of pupils preparing for the Entrance and Public School Leaving Examinations. This paper has been continued in an experimental way, with successive improvements and enlargements, until it has taken what will, no doubt, be its permanent shape, as *The Entrance Journal*. In this shape we have reason to believe it will prove everything that can be desired. It is in shape a twelve-page magazine, half the size of THE EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL, attractively printed, and illustrated. Its contents are prepared specially for it by thoroughly competent teachers, who are also, as will have been evident, skilful journalists. But it is unnecessary for us to particularize. Every teacher is cordially invited to send for a copy, if one has not already been received, and examine and judge for himself. This is the best test. Surely no live teacher will fail to apply it.

There is, however, another test, which the publishers are equally desirous of having applied; that is, the judgment of every boy and girl in all the fourth and fifth classes in all the schools of Ontario. They would like this judgment to be formed by actual use of the paper for a time. In order to make this easy, the publishers have decided to send *The En-*