

We hope that attention will be given to the matter immediately, as our correspondent suggests. It is certainly a waste of time to keep student teachers at work cramming a mass of facts in history and geography, and keeping them perpetually on the rack for the final examination, instead of giving them abundant opportunity to study the best methods of teaching these subjects to future classes. We believe many teachers are graduated from the normal school, often with a high grade of license, with no definite plan how to manage a school or properly instruct a class. This is, perhaps, not their fault. It is certainly not the fault of the instructors of the normal school, who are earnest and well-qualified teachers. But it is the fault of a system that keeps students in a constant ferment on their standing in subjects that ought to be disposed of finally on their entrance examination.

ADVERTISING FOR TEACHERS.

This is the season for advertising for teachers, and, in a few cases, for schools. It is somewhat significant that neither the best teachers nor the best schools often advertise. It has to be done in both cases under certain circumstances, such as a scarcity of teachers, but is not usually done on that account. We would advise teachers to beware of such advertisements, especially if they contain the words, "State salary," as that means putting the school up for the lowest tender. It is not the qualifications of the teacher that will be considered but the salary to be given, and in such districts there is always dissatisfaction and a constant change of teachers.

In the applications for both teachers and schools there is much discourtesy on both sides. Teachers after obtaining a situation do not consider it necessary to answer correspondence further, even though they may have invited it themselves; and if the position of things were reversed, would consider that they were being badly treated. Many secretaries are even more discourteous in this respect than the teachers referred to, and never take any notice of applications save to fill the vacancy. There should be enough courtesy on both sides to answer promptly all correspondents. Again, teachers will apply to Inspectors for a school, and they expect an immediate answer when it may be not at all possible to give one. In no case after having applied to an Inspector should a teacher fail to notify him of his or her acceptance of a position, as he may be depending upon such applicant to fill some vacancy. It is a good rule for any one when writing on his own private business to enclose a stamp for a reply.

EXAMINATIONS.

It is announced that Dalhousie College is about to hold examinations for matriculation in various parts of New Brunswick. This is already done by the Provincial University and McGill. It will be next in order for Mt. Allison and Acadia to hold their examinations here at the same time. Too many such examinations are wearisome, and so many different standards are confusing. We would call the attention of our educational authorities to the necessity either of inducing these different colleges to accept our standard of matriculation; that is, that of the University, or if that be not entirely satisfactory, to so alter its requirements as to make them harmonize with those of other colleges. Some arrangement, we believe, could be readily made which would simplify matters very much, and be of great advantage to all concerned.

EXHIBITIONS.

The teachers, we think, will congratulate themselves that, at the exhibition to be held in St. John this year, the public schools will take no part. Once in five years, at least, is often enough for a display of this kind. There can be no doubt but that by far the most attractive feature in the exhibition last year was the educational exhibit. There was no compulsion put upon any of the schools to take part, but the work sent was fairly representative, and showed at least what our schools are capable of doing. All this was done at a considerable sacrifice on the part of our teachers, and caused no little disturbance in the work of the school year. This result was so apparent to many of our schools that they either took no part at all or only to a limited extent, and many of them received undeserved censure because they did not take a more prominent place or receive more honorable mention. If these school exhibits are held too frequently we will never have a general representation of schools competing. When the next exhibit comes off it is to be hoped that great care will be exercised that well qualified judges be selected. Doctors, lawyers, clergymen and college professors no doubt do the best they can, and their awards may suit the average exhibition committee, but when it comes to judge common school work, they are not in sympathy with it, and, therefore, unsuited to pass judgment on its merits. In saying this we do not intend to censure judges in the past, for they have done much hard work gratuitously, in this respect also differing from judges in other departments in the same way as the schools differ from other exhibitors in the matter of awards. We are simply making a suggestion for the future.