

chemistry and biology, as they are applicable to the art of house-keeping. Would it not be well for the University authorities to make special provision for girls who desire to take this course of study and qualify themselves for teachers?

CONSOLIDATION OF RURAL SCHOOLS.

In this way the best possible provision could be made for the scientific side of their equipment. May I not suggest that you can very usefully confer and deliberate concerning the matter of the consolidation of Country Schools? Consolidation had its small beginning in Massachusetts. It has passed the experimental stage and to-day it is well and satisfactorily established in all the New England States and in parts of Ohio and Pennsylvania. I hope that before the year expires the experiment will be tried in more than one locality in our Province.

The necessary legislation to make it workable was provided for this last session. Like all real reforms the movement in this direction must grow.

During the year my Department has sent to School Boards reports and bulletins giving information bearing on this very important movement.

The annual meetings of this Association have in past years proved extremely useful in the way of criticism and suggestion alike. I know that this meeting will likewise lead to good results. The question of the evils incident to examinations is always suggestive of discussion. The extreme view is that the examiner is a parasite on the educational system, and like all parasites injures that from which he draws his sustenance.

We must not allow the work of education to be dominated by examinations. The more reasonable view seems to be that examinations form as essential a part of true education as investigation itself. Examinations within rational limits serve an excellent purpose, and to some extent they are, in the opinion of everyone absolutely indispensable.

"Whoever thinks in an examination is lost," said an eminent Cambridge tutor. His friend aptly replied, "Perfectly true, but in this imperfectly constituted world, what is to take the place of examinations?"

When we next revise the regulations, would it not be well to have only one examination for Junior Leaving instead of two?