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NOTES FOR MARCH

This Month's issue does not contain the complete class lists. It does not seem to us necessary to publish full lists in every issue. Such lists will again appear in April. The names of the first ten in class and general examinations appear every month. It must be remembered that it is of more importance to obtain a good place in a general examination than in one where competition is limited to one class. It is a good guide to notice how many took the paper.

Amongst our list of such examination results appears one in History. Papers by children in History are generally unsatisfactory, and low marks are the rule. This is because excellence in such a paper requires qualities much in advance of knowledge. The writer must be able to judge what is required by the question; he must then have common sense enough to choose such parts from his knowledge of the subject as answer the question properly. Bad composition is the rule, and the difficulty that young children find in putting on their paper what they mean makes the subject a hard one. Yet the oftener such papers are written the greater becomes the facility of expression. A History paper is always an exercise in Composition; each answer is a short essay.

As an examination subject History does not pay. This does not prevent us from including it in our school course, nor would we even think of dropping so important a sub-