

# The Educational Journal.

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## The Educational Journal.

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A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, AND THE  
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## Editorial Notes.

FOR "English Department" see next issue.

SEE "Question Drawer" for a list of the new extracts prescribed as the Literature Selections for the teachers' examinations for 1890.

THOSE who have written to make inquiries concerning the next Entrance Examinations are referred to our advertising columns, where the subjects and time table are given in full.

THE report of the annual meeting of the Ontario Teachers' Association takes up considerable space in this number, and obliges us to leave over some other important matter, but as the Association represents the whole Province, we thought a report of its proceedings had a first claim on our space. All teachers should familiarize themselves with the work of this Association.

AN English paper quotes the recent answer of a schoolboy to a question about Homer as an improvement upon the famous old one that Homer was not written by Homer, but by another man of the same name. The new aspirant for Hibernian honors, after listening to a lecture on the Homeric question, calmly wrote: "It is said that writing was not invented when Homer composed his poems. He must therefore have lived a good deal later." *Palman qui meruit, ferat.*

THE following two letters from teachers who have tried the book recently issued, "Practical Problems in Arithmetic," show their appreciation of the service which it has rendered them. W. J. B., of Swinton Park, says: "I purchased 'Practical Problems in Arithmetic' last February, and it has given me entire satisfaction. It is the most useful book which I possess in its line, and supplies a long felt want in my case. If the Composition exercises prove to be as valuable an aid as the Arithmetic, I shall be amply repaid for my investment." H. S. M., of Elora, also ordering the "Exercises in English Composition," writes: "Have used 'Practical Problems' for some time, and find it an invaluable time-saver, and a book which takes a place that no other I know of can." These two practical teachers evidently appreciate and answer to their own advantage the question why a teacher should spend time and brains in devising exercises in Arithmetic, when he can have a full supply for all requirements at so small a cost. Send 25 cents to the publish-

ers of the JOURNAL, and get the book, post paid, by return mail.

THE new book for teachers, "Exercises in English Composition," is one of the most popular little works issued from the press. It contains 400 exercises, properly graded in one hundred lessons, and supplies matter sufficient for a year's work in each grade. It is, thus, perpetual in its character; for it may be commenced anew with each new class. This book is for use in the three highest forms in the Public Schools and in the junior form of High Schools and Institutes. Its author is Mr. W. Huston, M.A., late First English Master in Toronto Collegiate Institute, and now Principal of Woodstock College. Every teacher who desires to economize time and labor, which may be more advantageously employed in other work, should secure a copy at the beginning of the school year. Send 25 cents to Grip Printing and Publishing Co., Toronto, and receive the book, post-paid, by return mail.

CONSIDERABLE discussion has been caused by the new departure made at the late examinations in selecting the sub-examiners largely from the ranks of the High School masters. In our humble opinion it was a move in the right direction. We hold it almost as an educational axiom that no one is competent to examine students who is not or has not been himself an actual teacher. It may be, as Inspector Johnston has said in a letter to one of the dailies, that this method is wrong in principle, (Mr. Johnston refers, no doubt, to the fact that the High School masters have to examine the papers of their own pupils with the rest), but it is certainly the "best possible way under the circumstances." Of course, it is not essential that the examiner be a High School master, but only that he be a competent teacher. One of the mistakes made in the University of Toronto is, it appears to us, the handing over of the conduct of examinations too often to young men who have no experience in teaching, and so no practical knowledge of the work. One result is glaring inequalities in the standards set up in the same subjects year after year, by different examiners. Every High School master knows that the best men do not always get the best standings, and that a superior student may this year be classed lower than one much inferior was in a preceding year. The ideal Board of Examiners would be a Board paid for giving their time and attention to the work as a profession. But this is, of course, impracticable.