from the Anglo-Saxon, should form part of the honor class in the third and fourth years, also that a graduating department be created which shall include Latin and the Romance languages, with such additional subjects as will make it a fair equivalent for the present graduating departments of classics and modern languages respectively. The following motion by Mr. Houston was lost:—"Resolved, That wherever English is prescribed as part of the pass course in arts, it shall include the critical reading of prose texts for rhetorical purposes." On motion of Dr. Oldright, seconded by President Wilson, a statute received its final reading which provides that undergraduates pursuing an honor course who had failed in pass subjects, but have obtained honors, may be permitted to present themselves in September in those subjects in which they have failed, and, on passing in such subjects, be allowed to proceed in honors in the following year; provided, that no such undergraduate shall be classed in honors in the year in which he shall have so failed.

The annual conversazione of the Canadian Institute was held in the Institute building in Toronto a week or two since, and proved a very pleasant and successful affair. The rooms were brilliantly lighted, and objects of interest to naturalists were displayed on every hand. The lecture-room was devoted to specimens in natural history, living and dead, the reptiles being among the most admired, and the birds and mammals gaining the next share of approval and admiration. The reading-room contained the microscopes, with an unusually large and interesting collection of settings. The Institute hall contained a collection of Esquimaux skins brought from Ungava Bay. Among the most interesting curiosities exhibited this year was a French cannon 200 years old, brought from Hudson Bay by Lieut. Gordon. In the course of an interesting address, the President, Prof. W. H. Vandersmissen, reviewed the history of the Institute and showed the practical benefits which it had conferred upon the country in being more or less instrumental in bringing about the progress in scientific spirit which had found an outcome in the establishment of the observatory in Queen's Park, the signal service, and other scientific institutions, of which the public are every day reaping the advantages. The Institute, he pointed out, was an instrument by which the governmental and civic authorities were continually prompted to preserve the historical and scientific features of the country. There was now being prepared an Act to make all prehistoric monuments, such as the mounds on Rainy River, public property, and to make it a misdemeanor to dig in or disturb them.

The Syracuse *School Bulletin* gives an interesting account of the success of Warden Brush's efforts to establish an evening school for the prisoners in Sing Sing. He started the school in January, 1884, with Chase, of Brooklyn, for teacher, who was serving a term for bigamy. The Warden can now boast that no one is now discharged from the prison who cannot read, write, and cast up ordinary accounts. The *World* says that, aside from the benefits the convicts derive, the school has been of incalculable benefit to the prison officials. The restless spirits have been given something to occupy their minds. There is less loud talk than formerly, and disturbances of all descriptions are infrequent. The worst class to deal with in an institution of that kind are the ignorant men who have nothing to do to amuse themselves and distract everybody else in all manner of ways. Once having started on their lessons, they all take to them eagerly. Where the incentive to learn is lacking, they regard it as a means of killing time. But it has been noticeable from the beginning that, no matter how depraved a convict might be, there comes to all the ambition to learn. No doubt this is fostered by the practice of having 30 or 40 together, including a fellow-convict somewhat advanced. This produces a spirit of rivalry, as no one, even among people of that class, cares to be thought too stupid to learn, or is content to be eclipsed by his companions. A *World* reporter visited the prison a few days ago. There he saw 32 as desperate-looking convicts as could probably have been picked from among the 1,513 who are in the prison. They were seated on rough benches at one end of the platform in the chapel and were poring over their books studiously. They were not all of the same grade. One was just learning to read words of three letters after being connected with the class seven days, others were able to do a little better in first-reader lessons, while the remainder were divided into four sections for the second, third, fourth, and intermediate readers. An Italian who knew nothing but evil and crime when he was sent to Sing-Sing last September, and could only speak his native language, but not read it, read quite as well as his mates in the Third Reader, and spoke English fluently with only a slight accent. In the book of every scholar is a pen-

manship copy, and they practice this with pencil and slate in their cells and bring their work into the class for inspection. Besides this, there are blackboard exercises in both penmanship and arithmetic. It speaks well for the discipline of the prison that the management dare trust 32 of their worst criminals in a remote part of the prison for an hour and a half. A guard is always near and watching over them, and the approaches to the chapel are closely guarded, but nevertheless it would be regarded as a dangerous experiment for so many men to meet together night after night. Still no harm has ever come of it. A system which contributes to the moral and intellectual elevation of a dangerous class of people, and creates in them a certain amount of self-reliance that they can go out into the world and make a living honestly, deserves some sort of recognition from the State. So far the only cost to the State has been less than $25 for books and slates.

Question Drawer.

Questions relating to matters of fact are answered by the editor. All others are left, as a rule, for correspondents.

QUESTIONS.

Can any one obtain circular No. 19 (Education Department), which gives notes on subjects for second and third-class certificates for 1887? Z.

(a). What books should be read in order to prepare the grammar, composition, and algebra required for first-class teachers' examination, grade C?

(b). In what order are the rules in algebra supposed to be taken to get "to the end of Binomial Theorem" as stated in the Regulations?

(c). Where or how could I get copies of the papers set for the two last examinations for honor matriculation, or for grade C teachers' certificates? W. M.

If a teacher should be engaged the first six months of the year at a certain rate per annum, may that teacher claim pay for the summer vacation? L. O.

As you mention in JOURNAL of November 1st that the police of Whitby were about to be called upon to enforce the compulsory clauses of the School Act in the cases of some children who are perpetual disturbers of the peace on the public streets, I write to ask would you kindly state in your columns what is the law on this point, and how can such disturbances be stopped; or in what way should the parents be hindered from allowing their children to be a public nuisance. Please answer through the JOURNAL, and oblige,
L. D. STERLING.

Please publish easy solutions for the following questions :—

(a). Explain how you would find all the divisors which a number has. Find those of 1800.

(b). Add together $\frac{17}{5}$, $\frac{7}{15}$ and $\frac{9}{142}$, and find what is the least fraction with denominator 1000, which must be added in order that the sum may be greater than unity.

(c). Simplify $16 \left(\frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{5^3} + \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{5^5} - \frac{1}{7}, \frac{1}{5^7} \times \cdots \right) - \frac{4}{239}$.

(d). A commission merchant receives 125 bbls. of flower from A, 150 bbls. from B, 225 bbls. from C; he finds on inspection that A's is 10 per cent. better than B's, and C's $5\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. better than A's; he sells the whole lot at $7 per barrel, and charges 4 per cent. commission. How much does he remit to each?

(e). The product of four consecutive numbers is 73440; find the numbers. IGNORAMUS.

ANSWERS.

Z. Apply to the Secretary of the Education Department.

W. M.—(a). Mason's Grammar and High School Algebra, supplemented with McLellan's Hand-Book of Algebra.
(b). The order followed in the authorized text-books, no doubt.
(c). Write to the Registrar of Toronto University.

L. O.—Divide the amount of the yearly salary by the number of *teaching* days in the year; multiply the quotient by the number of days of actual teaching during the period; the product will be the amount to which the teacher is entitled.