

equipments and do far more effective educational work than they can hope to do with their present narrow incomes.

No SYSTEM of promotion in graded schools is entirely satisfactory in its working; but that outlined on another page by Principal Foster, who has given much attention to this subject, has this merit in its favor, that it leaves with the teacher to a great extent the power of forming a sufficient estimate of the pupil's progress. And this places the responsibility where it naturally belongs; for no one else can judge of the pupil's fitness for promotion better than can his teacher. But the judgment of the too careless or the too conscientious teacher may both be at fault in advancing too readily or restraining pupils at the time of grading. The plan proposed would obviate this difficulty by calling in other expert opinion.

We hope to hear this subject of grading discussed fully, and even on broader lines than our correspondent has taken. Is our system of promotion flexible enough? If a scholar is kept too long in one grade simply because he is deficient in a certain subject, say arithmetic, is it not a manifest injustice to him? Should not our system of grading be elastic enough to allow grading according to ability? Would it not be a stimulus to everybody, including the teacher? Would not dull pupils as well as bright ones be spurred to greater effort, if they were moved forward as soon as they are prepared? or at least put to doing something outside the regular course.

IF that man is regarded as a public benefactor who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, surely he who gives us a short and effective method to study a language, instead of a cumbrous and roundabout way, is equally entitled to our gratitude. It might be expected that those who spend from four to eight years in our schools in the study of Latin would be able to read easy passages at sight. But nine out of ten pupils are not able to do so. Further, they acquire a distaste for a study where so much time is taken up, as is usually the case in studying Latin or Greek, in memorizing rules, declensions and conjugations. Among the methods to acquire a good working knowledge of Latin in a comparatively short time is the De Brisay system, the aim of which is to enable students to read, write and speak Latin from the beginning of their course. Such a method, where the student may acquire a fair working knowledge of the language and a considerable acquaintance with the best Latin authors in a way that arouses the interest and pleasure at every step, ought to be worthy of the greatest consideration at a time when Latin is in danger of being excluded from many of our schools, not from a lack of appreciation of its many advantages, but from the unnatural and time-wasting methods used in acquiring merely a scanty and insufficient knowledge of it. We commend to the attention of our readers the De Brisay method, which already in the Maritime Provinces has over a hundred students engaged in the practical application of its principles to the study of Latin. A similar method is applied to the study of French.

NUMBER FOUR of the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW Series of Leaflets on Canadian History has been published and is even more interesting to the student than previous numbers. The opening article, by Mr. George Johnson, Dominion Statistician of Ottawa, is on Place-Names, and he shows what a wealth of interest and meaning is attached to such names in every section of Canada. Referring incidentally to Greenland he gives, together with a reason for the name, a most interesting history of that northern region which will be new to most of our readers. Mr. J. Vroom writes on the life and characteristics of the French *habitant*, quoting largely from Roberts' History. Miss Frances E. Murray gives in picturesque language the remarkable story of Laura Secord. Prof. W. F. Ganong, in an illustrated article, gives some interesting facts about early explorers and maps, and shows by a series of four of these how crude were the early attempts at map-making. It will be interesting for the student to compare these with the maps of modern times. Mr. Victor H. Paltsits, of the New York Public Library, writes on the attempted Conquest of Canada in 1746. The article is of great value to the student of history as it may serve to show the methods of the historian in pursuing his investigations and his plans of making notes. As these Leaflets come to be used more and more by teachers for supplementary readings their value will be increased, and boys and girls will see what a wealth of interest lies in the study of our own history.

THE Roman pronunciation of Latin and the accentual pronunciation of Greek are henceforth to be imperative in all the public schools of Nova Scotia. The largest academies and high schools adopted the standard pronunciation some years ago, as well as the leading universities. We presume that uniformity in the pronunciation of the ancient classics will now be universal throughout the province.

THERE has been a notable contest going on in Chicago between Superintendent Andrews and the school board over the matter of appointments. The Superintendent insisted that appointments should be made upon merit alone, while the members of the board were equally determined that they would continue to exercise the powers of patronage. A crisis arose over the appointment of a principal for one of the night schools. The candidate having the "pull" obtained the position over the more competent one recommended by the Superintendent. Dr. Andrews' resignation was soon on its way, but such was the public sentiment aroused by the action of the board that it was forced to re-consider, with the result that the Superintendent will in the future have the authority to select his own teachers. This, coming from Chicago, inspires the hope that a better day is dawning for the schools everywhere. Unscrupulous and self-seeking school boards have too long victimized the taxpayers under various specious pretexts, and the action of Chicago and other cities, where the appointment of teachers has been placed in the hands of experts, will bear fruit in many places.