

given for a general question. Reducing all to a common denomination on this basis, we arrive at the result that two-thirteenths of the questions for the last ten years apply to the first period, two-thirteenths to the second, four-thirteenths each to the third and fourth, and nearly one-thirteenth to the fifth. Is this the proportion that should prevail? To answer this it is right to remember that until lately the work prescribed began with the Persian Invasions, and that the number of pages given in the authorized text to the successive periods is 49, 17, 8, 19, 20. It would seem from this that a candidate, by studying or rather cramming 27 pages, might answer eight-thirteenths of the questions, thus securing more than half of the marks for the subject.

Nearly all the questions on the period before the Persian Invasion were given when the curriculum stated that the work should begin with the Persian Invasions. Since the curriculum was changed so as to include the period before the Persian Invasions scarcely a reference has been made to that period, nor has there been any notice taken of a similar extension of

the work in Roman History. All that is known of the foundation on which the greatness of Greece and Rome was built belongs to the Legendary Periods. More attention should therefore be directed to these periods. The greatness of our legacy from Greece and Rome could be enquired for in connection with our own institutions and literature.

As to the subjects of the questions, there are five distinct references to the political and constitutional history of Greece, six to trade and commerce, four to art and literature, ten to colonization, about five to the influence of geography on history, and one to a comparison of the civilizations of Greece and Rome. Dates are asked for but once.

In Roman History, Augustus and his time come in for thirteen questions; Sulla for four, and Caius Gracchus and Julius Cæsar for three each. The countries in the Roman Empire were asked for five times, and the states of Italy three times. On the whole, there is a more uniform distribution of attention in the questions on Roman History than in those on the History of Greece.

NEED OF A FATHER'S INFLUENCE.

THE *Popular Science Monthly* recently had an article by Dr. H. L. Taylor, on "Childhood from a Medical Standpoint," in which he emphasizes the importance of fathers having a share in shaping the characters of their children. His trenchant remarks on "wholesome neglect" are equally pertinent. He says:

So much has been said about the frivolity, incompetence or fussiness of American mothers that it will not be amiss to enquire into the characteristics of our fathers of families. With

the best intentions in the world the time that a city man can spend with his family is usually very limited, and he is not always in the mood to exert a helpful influence when he returns at night worn out with business cares, and often prefers the club, lodge, or neighbouring corner to his family circle; his wife may see little of him, and his children less. It is not a matter of indifference, however, even in regard to health, whether the children enjoy a due proportion of their father's companionship, for that is, or