CORRESPONDENCE.

can guide the public mind in cases of difficulty when principles are at stake, we shall do well to urge on the attention of our rulers the desirability of giving to our Universities the privilege of parliamentary representation.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. HENEKER.

MATHEMATICAL EDUCATION.

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL RECORD:

DRAR SIR,—Will you allow me to display before the educational public the points of a certain hobby of mine, which I have already mounted before a limited field of spectators, who probably did not much admire him, nor even do him the honour of giving his name a place in their books. I have, nevertheless, such confidence in his staying powers and speed, that it is certain it must have been the jockey's style which failed to show his intrinsic merit, and not any fault in the animal, that caused this want of appreciation.

In almost the earliest stage of the education of the young is comprised the committing to memory of Arithmetical tables, and the work in this department usually stops there. Now, if authorities, parents and teachers, could only be persuaded of the desirability of adding to this work of memory the formulæ of Algebra and Trigonometry, I think the happiest results would follow. Is it not easy to see what an immense advantage it would give, and how much mental effort it would save the student to have at his command, when he entered on the higher subjects, all these Trigonometrical formulæ and Mathematical definitions, just as ready as he had, the multiplication table to take with him to the study of Arithmetic? Learned at this early period, they would be always retained; the worst drudgery would have been passed, and what remained would be the pleasure of work where all the necessary implements were ready to the hand. If excellence in the Classics is only attainable by this method of early committing to memory the various grammatical forms and rules, why should not a similar method be successful in Mathematics.

It is much easier to put theories on paper than to carry them into practice; but if parents would give, not merely a languid consent, but a whole-hearted encouragement, to this and every effort which the teacher's experience and the sanction of the profession should pronounce wise, much of the uphill work which is now met with would vanish. Let a boy know "my father wills it, my mother wills it, my teacher wills it," and he will feel bourd to acquiesce; but if the father docs not care and the mother gives no word of encouragement, then the ruggedness of the way is wofully increased.

Here then, Sir, are a few hints, merely, as to the qualities of this Bucephalus. If he should be judged both sound and fleet, and only wanting a firstrate rider to bring him first to the winning post, may such an one be speedily found to undertake the mount and bring the race to a successful issue.

CHARLES WILLIAM PAREIN.

Sherbrooke, P. Q.

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