whole system which permits the Education Department to have relations with the publishers, and to make fortunes for them, as it evidently can, at pleasure, is one of the worst conceivable-The wonder is that the intelligent people of Ontario can sanc' tion it.

EDUCATION AND CRIME.

"Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers." The laureate's aphorism is as true of the race as of the individual. The whole history of prisons on the one hand and public schools on the other proves it. The day is near when all intelligent people will look back with amazement, not unmixed with horror, on the manner in which the most enlightened nations, even in the latter half of the nineteenth century, dealt with their street waifs and juvenile criminals. To suffer thousands of orphaned, or worse than orphaned, children in every great city to grow up in sinks of material and moral filth, in training for lives of vice and crime, is a folly surpassed in depth and culpability only by the infatuation which hands over the youth convicted of his first offence to be branded with the infamy of a jail-bird, and made the constant associate of the most confirmed criminals. Is it any wonder that the prisons are crowded with inmates and the streets dotted with detectives? Is it any wonder that people everywhere are crying out that free schools and universal (?) education are failures, so far as their promised results in annihilating crime are concerned?

We know of no two agencies which to-day contain the promise and potency of so much good to society as the Industrial and Reformatory Schools which are springing into exist-They are but in their infancy as yet, but already they are accomplishing wonders. According to a recent report of the Inspector of these schools in Great Britain there were in 1884 no less than 6,360 youths in the reformatory schools, and 19,483 in the industrial schools. This means a total of nearly 26,000 boys and girls of the most destitute and dangerous classes being trained systematically for lives of honest industry and usefulness.

But what of the results of this training? To what extent is it successful in eradicating the taint of evil too often born in the blood, or vagrant and vicious habits too often bred in the bone? It would be idle, of course, to expect either that the ber modes of treatment should be formed at once and applied, or that even the wisest treatment should be in all cases success. Those who set out to be moral benefactors must lay their account for a plenteous crop of disappointments.

Nevertheless, the results as reported are encouraging even beyond the expectations of any but the most sanguine. Statistics show, for instance, that no less than 80 per cent. of those who are sent out from the reformatory at Elmira, N.Y., are permanently reformed, and go forth to lives of honorable industry The facts presented in the British Inspector's report correspond with these in a wonderful manner. In regard to the reforma tory schools, we are told that of the 4,904 boys discharged were convicted, and about 5 per cent. were unknown. Of the reaction by the following equation: girls, 72 per cent. were doing well; 9 per cent. were doubtful; 6 per cent, were convicted, and 13 per cent, were unknown."

"In the industrial schools the exhibit was still more satisfactory. In the three years ending with 1883 the dismissions were 9,569. Of the boys thus discharged 81 per cent. were doing well, 3 per cent. were doubtful, and about 5 per cent. were committed. Of the girls 81 per cent. were doing well, 7 per cent, were doubtful, and only 2 per cent, had been convicted."

Who can fail to see in these facts a new hope for humanity? Surely these philanthropic men and women amongst us who are working for the establishment of such institutions are deserving of every encouragement and aid. The British inspector says there is no better work for the purpose of industrial training than farming. Suppose that every boy and girl in our Canadian cities who is without home, employment, or guardianship could be given a few years' training in such a school and then transplanted to the wholesome atmosphere of the farm or mechanic's shop, can anyone doubt that a wonderful depopulation of our jails and penitentiaries would shortly follow?

Our space forbids us to pursue the subject, else we believe it could easily be shown that there is not an argument from the principles of political economy which can be urged in favor of the expenditure of public money in the support of schools and colleges which does not apply with increased force to such institutions as these. We do not know to what extent those who are engaged in the work find their efforts hampered or frustrated by the extreme to which the doctrine of parental rights is carried in modern legislation. There is, no doubt, need for considerable modification of the laws in this respect. Parental rights should be sacred only so far as parental duties are discharged. The drunken and dissolute should not have it in their power to entail misery upon their posterity and injury upon the State by training their offspring to follow in their own footsteps.

Special.

ELEMENTARY CHEMISTRY.

CHAPTER II. SECTION I. OXYGEN.

Symbol, O. Atomic Weight, 16 (15.96.) Molecular Weight, 0232. PREPARATION.

34. From Mercuric Oxide. This method possesses special interest, since it is that by which oxygen was first prepared by its discoverer, Priestly. When mercury is heated in contact with air to a temperature of about 450°C, it gradually becomes covered with red scales of Mercuric Oxide, HgO, and when these red scales are exposed to a temperature of about 630°C, they begin to be decomposed into oxygen and metallic mercury. Atoms, when liberated form molecules, and in order to satisfy Avogadro's Law, the molecule of mercury must consist of a single atom, and the molecule of oxygen of during the three years from 1881 to 1883 inclusive, "79 per two atoms, and since a single molecule of mercuric oxide does cent. were doing well; 2 per cent. were doubtful; 14 per cent. Inot yield an even number of atoms, we take two molecules and

 O_2 2HgO 2Hg Oxygen. Mercury. Mercurio Oxide.