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Editorial Notes.

CORRESPONDENTS will confer a favor by putting business matter, and matter intended for publication, or editorial use, on separate sheets. Copy for the press should be written on one side of the sheet only.

THE second half-yearly meeting of the South York Teachers' Institute is to be held in the Assembly Room of the Parkdale County Model School, on Thursday and Friday, October 13th and 14th. A good programme is prepared including a lecture by the Minister of Education on "Our Educational System."

WE call the attention of our readers to the interesting account of the Manitoba Teachers' Convention, kindly furnished us by a Winnipeg correspondent who was present. From the report of proceedings and *resume* of papers read, it is evident that the teachers in the new prairie province stand in the front rank for education and ability. The essays seem to have been specially thoughtful and able. We hope to be able to place some of them before our readers at a future date.

ONE most encouraging sign of the times is the increasing amount of space given by the newspapers to the discussion of educational questions. We have before us a considerable collection of editorials on such questions, clipped from Ontario journals. Some of the points raised we propose to touch upon from time to time as space permits. No better service can be rendered to the cause of education, which is the cause of national intelligence, well-being, and progress than to have all matters in connection with our educational system, from district school to university, brought into the light of fair and free discussion.

IT sounds rather strange to read in an article by "A Harvard Senior" that English now ranks as one of the most popular studies at the Harvard University. If the statement referred to a university in some other land in which German, or Russian, or Chinese was the vernacular, it might seem noteworthy. Nevertheless it is too true that English has not been in the past a favorite study in American and Canadian colleges. In some of them it could hardly be said to be a study at all, until within a few years. The influence of the colleges, reacting upon the public schools, may in part account for the state of things of which Mr. Haultain complains.

THE periodical cry is being again raised in some quarters against what is called "the craze" for scientific and other "abstruse" studies in the schools. By these terms some of our contemporaries seem to denote everything outside of "the three R's." Many of these subjects, says one, "even if properly mastered (which in nine cases out of ten they are not), are utterly useless to the learners in fighting the battle of practical life." We do not, of course, believe in the utility of any so-called study, if it cannot be properly mastered. But educators cannot too steadily protest against the test of practical utility set up by such writers. We hold it as an educational axiom, that every study which enlarges the horizon of the young mind, opening up for it new fields of knowledge and thought, is of practical utility of the highest kind. The battle of life is much more than a mere battle for bread and butter, or for lucre.

A MEMBER of one of the School Boards recently complained that the system of marking had been discontinued and suggested that it be re-introduced, as he regarded it as a great spur to the pupils. The principal replied that the marking was done as heretofore, but finding parents took very little interest in the reports he had ceased occupying an hour each month in transcribing them, believing the time could be more profitably employed. The question is one of some importance. We sometimes doubt whether a great deal of time is not wasted in the marking itself, and whether the teacher's time could not be more profitably employed. Certainly if the pupil can be got to apply himself from interest in the subject and delight in study, a better and more effective spur will have been found than mere emulation, which is not the loftiest of motives, although a legitimate one when a better is not available.

THE press and public were loud in their praises of the entertainment given during the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, by the two hundred and fifty pupils of the Guelph school, under the direction of Captain Clark, Instructor in Calisthenics of that city. The movements, whether marching or manual, were executed with the precision of clock work, and the exhibition was said to be the finest of the kind ever seen in Toronto. The only criticism we have heard of an unfavorable or modifying character, is to the effect that the movements and exercises, however graceful and effective, were in the main rather adapted for show than for genuine physical culture. We leave this question to the