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THE ABOLITION OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

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"Thou hast most traitorously corrupted the youth of the realm in erecting a grammar school."—Shakspeare, Hen. vi.

EVERYONE who has read Mr. Seath's able paper on the High School question, must recognise its clearness and sincerity. I differ from him widely as to the conclusion of the whole matter, and may seem in these remarks to criticise rather than commend; but I wish to acknowledge at the outset my indebtedness to his candid statement for a clear comprehension of the subject. I shall endeavour to imitate, in what I say here, his calm and judicial spirit which "avoids alike (in the words of Goldwin Smith) the bigotry of conservatism and the bigotry of innovation."

The problem Mr. Seath sets before himself is the unification of our secondary education. I believe that, along the lines he proposes, any satisfactory unification is an impossibility; the interests involved are too many and too conflicting.

The High School, as at present constituted, discharges three distinct functions:

(a) It prepares candidates for university matriculation.

(b) It prepares candidates for teachers' certificates.

(c) It attempts to serve as "the poor man's college" and to give culture, or at least useful knowledge, to those whose education ends with the High School.

What curriculum can be laid down, adapted to each of these three functions?

Of all the subjects that claim attention in the High School, only English, Mathematics, History, and the Commercial Subjects with Drawing, are at present obligatory.

In the interest of unification and of the last two classes of pupils mentioned above, Mr. Seath now proposes to make Science obligatory also. This proposal, simply means the abolition of the Grammar School and the substitution of the Science School in its place.

Those who believe that the old type of education is better, will demand some cogent justification for so sweeping a change. The universities have complained that their matriculation work has been neglected or ignored in the past; there is now danger of its being superseded altogether.

Elementary Science, it is alleged,