

Notes and Comments.

THE King of Belgians has offered an annual prize of twenty-five thousand francs for the purpose of encouraging works of the mind, open to the competition of persons in all parts of the world.

WE regret to have been obliged to delay for so long the continuation of the articles on Practical Art. Mr. Arthur J. Reading, the writer of these, has been heavily encumbered with a press of other work, but he promises to renew his contributions either next week or the week following.

IN answer to a question which we submitted to the Education Department in regard to the permissibility of trying for both second and third class certificates in the same year, we have received the following answer:—"The Minister has arranged that a candidate may try for both the second and third class standing next July, although there is no special regulation on the subject."

IN a little volume on the "Humanities," written by Thomas Sinclair, and published by Trübner & Company, of London, we have an enthusiastic defence of the old classic studies. Not only that, but Mr. Sinclair claims that the cultures of Greece and Rome, especially of the latter, are the best the world has ever known. At the height of its civilization Rome led the world in maintaining the only true culture; and the hope of culture for the future is that we will get back to this of the Roman "Humanities." The true culture, says Mr. Sinclair, was overthrown by the fanaticism of the Hebrews.

MACMILLAN & CO. have just issued Mr. Frederick Harrison's new volume, "The Choice of Books, and other Literary Pieces," which consists of essays and lectures written at various times during the last twenty years, and dealing solely with books, art and history. Mr. Harrison's views on the choice of books, which occupy about a fifth part of the volume, will be read with interest, in connexion with Sir John Lubbock's recent lecture, a part of which we published in our issue of February 18th, and the discussion which has followed it. Other essays are on Mr. Froude's life of Carlyle, on the life of George Eliot, on Bernard of Clairvaux, on historic London, and on the French Revolution.

MR. J. O. M. LER, writing to the *'Varsity* on the subject of the annual prize poem of the University of Toronto, says:—"Why not abolish the setting of subjects altogether? It is not fair to cramp the intellect in the highest possible way in which it can do original work. There are only too few opportunities to a student as it is, to do the best

kind of work. Would it not be a good idea, instead of demanding a poem on a given subject, within a given time, to take the best poem of, say over fifty lines in length, published in the *'Varsity* during the current year, written by an undergraduate, and give the prize for it? The writer may, in that case, consult his own taste and feeling as to his subject, and may, if he wishes, take the whole four years of his course to elaborate his thought.

"THE members of the Modern Language Club are," the *'Varsity* says, "about to address a memorial to the University Senate, praying that their department be placed on an equal footing with others in regard to the scholarships granted by that body. The Club will not commit itself to approval of the principle of scholarships, but modern language men rightly think that so long as rewards of this nature are given, no unfair discrimination should be made against their department. No one who is competent to express an opinion will now seriously contend that modern language study requires less mental ability and application than classics or mathematics, yet each of the latter subjects has two scholarships allotted to it of \$130 and \$100 respectively, whereas modern languages receive only one scholarship of \$100. This is in the first year. At matriculation a discrimination is made against modern languages to the extent of \$20, and in both examinations the other subjects count higher in determining the scholarship for general proficiency."

EDUCATIONAL problems are certainly increasing in number. The following from the *N. Y. School Journal* is significant: "The co-education of the races—not sexes—is a subject our nation more than any other is called upon to consider. Where are the Africans, Chinese and Indians to be educated? That they *must* go to school, our best citizens admit; but where? This is the question." The practical application of this axiom is thus enforced:—"The laws in reference to education should be enforced. All the Chinese children should be required to attend school. Here is a lever we can use with great results. If a Chinese child is cleanly, orderly and able to study with the c'asses in an American school, there is no reason why he should not be permitted to associate with other children. The fact that a child is a Mongolian, African, or European is no argument against the co-education of the races. If a full-blooded Indian should prove to be the best man we could find for president of this country, he should be elected. Indian blood wouldn't hurt him."

FURTHER changes have been made in the mode of procedure of the Senate of the University of Toronto. On the clause of the report that proposed that regular sessions of the Senate be held on the second Thursdays

in November, December, March and April, Prof. Loudon moved, seconded by Prof. Galbraith, that the Senate is prepared to try the experiment of holding continuous sessions on the second Thursdays of March, April, November and December, on the understanding that meetings should be called, as hitherto, whenever in the opinion of the vice-chancellor they should be required, with due notice of all business to be introduced. The amendment was lost and the clause was adopted. The following clauses in the report were adopted—No statute shall be introduced without at least one day's notice, nor shall it be passed at the same sitting at which it was introduced, and it shall have two readings on two different days. At the second reading of a statute any member may require it to be read clause by clause. The order of proceedings at the meetings was settled, and it was decided that unprovided cases should be settled by the rules of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It was also moved by Dr. Caven, seconded by Mr. Coyne, and carried, "That the report now adopted be acted on for one year before the provisions be reduced to the form of a statute."

"FRIDAY, Feb. 5th, was the fifth anniversary of Carlyle's death," says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, "and on Saturday a memorial tablet was fixed in Cheyne-row, Chelsea, the street which is inseparably connected with his name. Unfortunately the tablet is not to be erected on No. 24, the house so long inhabited by Carlyle. It is not a little curious that the house of the great denouncer of quacks should be the property of the proprietor of a quack medicine. Since the house was vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Carlyle some time after their uncle's death it has remained unlet, and the Carlyle Society hoped at one time to obtain it with a view of forming there a Carlyle library and museum, containing copies of all the editions of his works, portraits of his heroes, plans of the battlefields he has described, and so on. The negotiations, however, came to nothing, and it was then determined that a marble tablet should be fixed to the house. The owner's permission was obtained, and a commission was given to Mr. C. F. Annesley Voysey. Just when the work was completed the owner of the house died, and the property was thrown into Chancery. Many delays ensued, and it was found impossible to obtain the necessary permission to fix the tablet. Under these circumstances, rather than let another anniversary of Carlyle's death pass unnoticed, the council of the Carlyle Society decided to put up the tablet on the side wall of No. 49 Cheyne-walk, and there—for the present, at least—it must remain." The *Gazette* prints a sketch showing the tablet in position, and giving a glimpse of Cheyne-row.