

that a very small book would hold all I do know." A pupil well grounded and proficient in all embraced in the fourth form public school work, is better educated than one-third of those who obtain third-class certificates. Then, with regard to the second-class standard, besides being averse to retrogression, we have not yet found any second-class teachers too erudite for ordinary public school work; in fact, we know of cases where a little more erudition would not have come amiss to some of the second: when illustrating the principles of a problem, or construing an idiomatic English sentence. To lower the second-class standard, then, would not be a sound remedy, although the present criterion of exacting 50 per cent. tests in two subjects is of questionable advisability. There are several reasons for raising the third-class standard. Persons holding these certificates teach in the same grade of schools as second-class teachers. Certainly the less experience a teacher has the more he needs breadth of intellect, store of knowledge, and soundness of judgment; therefore he should get his "schooling" before he commences to impart knowledge rather than after he teaches three years. The second-class certificate ought to be the criterion of efficiency rather than of attainments. Therefore it is reasonable, and advantageous to the interests of public education, to raise the third-class standard. But the Council of Public Instruction adopted two grades of standard for certificates—monitors', and assistants'—below the third-class medium. If there was necessity for this step, and we believe there was good reason, then we are not yet fully prepared to raise the third-class standard very much. The next best plan is to establish an intermediate grade between the second and third, and as rapidly as possible circumscribe the present third, requiring as an essential in all cases some test of professional ability.

The difficulties in connection with this question have engaged much attention during the past two years. We give the opinions that have found favor at the different teachers' associations whose proceedings have come under our notice.

Elora Convention, March, 1876, favored adding book-keeping and human physiology to the requirements for thirds, and that they be not renewable.

Huron Teachers' Association, June, 1876:—
"That an elementary knowledge of book-keeping, human physiology, natural philosophy, algebra and geometry be required in future for third-class certificates."

East Middlesex Teachers' Association, June, 1876:—

"There should be two grades of third-class certificates, to be known as grades A and B.

"That to the subjects at present required for

third-class certificates there be added algebra to the end of simple equations, elementary mensuration, Euclid—book I., and book-keeping.

"That Grade B be given on 50 per cent. of the subjects at present required, Grade A on 50 per cent. of the total, with 50 per cent. on each test subject.

"That Grade A qualify for the position of master, Grade B for assistant.

"That the present system of granting monitors' and assistants' certificates be abolished, their place being taken by Grade B of the third.

"That candidates for Grade B be admitted at sixteen years of age, for Grade A at nineteen, persons of the latter age being quite young enough to take sole charge of a school, except such as have had normal training, with model school practice.

"That Grade B be given for one year, and renewable from year to year on the recommendation of the Inspector.

"That Grade A be given for five years, with permission to write for a second at the end of three years, giving the candidate option to write the whole examination at once, or proceed to his certificate by two examinations, taking a fixed part of the subjects one year, the remaining the year following.

"That a third A be renewable from year to year on the recommendation of the Inspector and trustees and that all renewals be made by the Board of Examiners after examination, those for third A on second-class papers.

"That no permits be granted except to persons coming from abroad, and that, after a reported examination."

Elgin Teachers' Association—"Regards the low standard of qualification for third-class certificates as very injurious in its effects on the teaching profession."

Hastings Association—"There should be two grades of third class certificates: Grade A, tenable for five years, Grade B for three years.

"That the first book of Euclid, exclusive of all deducibles; algebra to simple equations; mensuration of plane surfaces, and elementary book-keeping be added to the subjects for third-class certificates."

Dundas Association, Sept., 1876—"There should be two grades of third-class certificates, A and B; Grade B to remain equal to the present third, and for Grade A the same subjects as recommended by the East Middlesex Teachers' Association, and that each grade be granted for two years."

Halton Association, Oct., 1876:—

"Recommend the formation of another grade of certificates midway between the present third and second, to continue in force six years and to be renewable.

"Candidates should be permitted to take a portion of the subjects at one examination, thus dividing the work into at least two sections."

Plympton Association:—

"Subjects for first and second-class candidates be divided, so as to extend over three examinations."

Waterloo Convention, Jan., 1877:—

"That an intermediate grade between third and second should be established."

Two points seem to meet general favor, that there be an intermediate grade between second and