

A Prevalent Defect of the Age. Our English contemporary, "The Finance Chronicle," in an article upon the value of the medical examination, points out that, "One of the most marked characteristics of our age is the almost universal tendency to challenge authority. This is in no sense to be deplored, for of it is the very essence of all real mental progress, but the rapid spread of what is, with much unconscious humour, described as education, has its disadvantages. Nearly everybody can read and write, with the unfortunate result that a large number of people like to see what they call their thoughts in print. But the attainment of a moderate proficiency in the arts of reading and writing does not necessarily entail a thorough mental training, and the capacity for real thinking is still the possession of the few. To the man of untrained mind nothing is so alluring as the motto that he can "argue" with those whom he inwardly recognizes as his mental superiors. He feels as if for the time being he has raised himself to their level, and enjoys a kind of half-realized mental insolence.

Of course, to such a man science is a constant enemy. Rigid thinking is quite beyond even his imagination, and as medical science seems to come closer to him than any other, he attacks it first. This is the real reason of most of the so-called conscientious objections, to doing any thing which men of science advise. It is not the thing itself which is objected to, but the being told to do it by "those theorists don't you know." Our British namesake might have gone further and said that there is no mental education, or, "mental training" whatever, or only the slightest, in acquiring the art of reading and writing. It is in the higher sphere of education where the intellectual faculties are educated, trained, developed and strengthened by vigorous and prolonged exercise.

New Zealand Banks.

The last official report of the 5 New Zealand banks dated 30th September, 1902, is given in the New Zealand "Trade Review." The total capital paid up is \$39,250,000; circulation, \$5,737,000; deposits bearing interest, \$43,309,000; not bearing interest, \$39,564,700; total deposits, \$82,873,700. They held \$16,175,000 in coin and bullion, \$4,500,000 government securities, other securities, \$7,760,000; discounts, \$8,735,000; due debts, \$53,889,000; landed property, \$2,080,000. The Union Bank of Australia paid 8 per cent.; Bank of New South Wales, 10 per cent.; Bank of Australasia, 11 per cent.; National Bank, 8 per cent. and 2 per cent bonus. The banking system of New Zealand manifestly differs from that of Canada, and is more on the lines of the English provincial banks. The

classification of "Debts due to Banks" does not appear in the Canadian bank returns. The amount of these assets, \$53,889,000, which equals 58 per cent. of the total assets, while the discounts amount to only \$8,735,000, or 9 per cent. of the assets, indicates that the system of advances by overdrawn accounts is in vogue as in the banks of Great Britain. The New Zealand banks advance largely on wool. Their circulation amounting to only 9 per cent. of the paid-up capital is a striking contrast to the conditions in Canada where the circulation has reached over 90 per cent. of the paid-up capital. The stock of coin and bullion in New Zealand banks, \$16,175,000, amounts to 18 per cent. of the total public deposits and circulation combined, which shows another appearance from the practice of our banks whose stocks of specie are less in amount, while the aggregate of their deposits and circulation is five times greater than those of the New Zealand banks.

Census of Ireland. The Census of Ireland has just been issued as a Blue Book. The population in 1901 was 4,458,775, comprising, 2,200,040 males, and 2,385,797 females. In the last ten years there was a decrease of 245,975 persons, a decline equal to 5.23 per cent. The number of Scotchmen in Ireland increased 10 per cent. between 1891 and 1901, which does not look like the country going backwards, for Scotchmen do not flock to a worse country than their own. The Census shows the following results: the percentage of illiterate children has decreased since 1891; the number of adults able to read has increased; the students attending higher grade schools and colleges increased 38.9 per cent. The "professional" class has decreased; so has the "domestic;" but the commercial class and the "industrial" have each increased, which is not a sign of decadence. Houses of the first class increased 6.3 per cent.; second class, 11.7 per cent, and third class houses have decreased 19.5 per cent. It is gratifying to find that mud cabins decreased from 20,617 in 1891 to 9,873 in 1901, a reduction of 52 per cent. There are thousands of houses in Canada not a whit better adapted for human habitation than an Irish mud cabin. The rateable valuation of Ireland rose in last ten years from \$70,173,000 to \$74,618,000, the increase being over 6 per cent. The emigration in ten years was 430,993 against 768,105 between 1881 and 1891. The land under crops, including meadow and clover, in 1901 was 4,631,051 acres against 4,818,381 acres in 1891. Under grass the area was 10,577,238 acres against 10,398,654 in 1891. There were 74,665 acres devoted to flax. The horses and mules numbered 593,798, asses, 238,980. Of cattle,