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Table of Contents.

PAGE.	PAGE.
EDITORIAL NOTES..... 307	EXAMINATION PAPERS—
ENGLISH—	West Middlesex Pro-
English Poetical Lit-	motion Examination 315
erature—Primary... 308	SCHOOLROOM METHODS—
English Grammar—	The Reading Class... 315
Primary..... 308	PRIMARY DEPARTMENT—
Third Reader Litera-	What Was It?... 316
ture..... 308	Busy-Work..... 316
Correspondence..... 308	The Reason Why..... 316
FOR FRIDAY AFTERNOON—	Stories for Reproduc-
March..... 309	tion..... 316
Astronomy Made Easy 309	Teachers' Test Ques-
The Snow Elves..... 309	tions..... 317
EDITORIALS—	Exercise in Language 317
The Manitoba School	The Value of Memory
Question..... 310	Gems..... 317
CONTRIBUTORS' DEPT.—	Bobolinks..... 317
University Misman-	CORRESPONDENCE—
agement..... 311	The Phonic System... 317
SPECIAL PAPERS—	A Four-Year Old Opin-
Education and Culture 312	ion..... 317
HINTS AND HELPS—	Those Waterloo Reso-
A Device to Promote	lutions..... 318
Reading..... 313	TEACHERS' MISCELLANY—
The Art of Question-	The Ghost Flower... 318
ing Illustrated..... 313	The Tenderness of God 318
MATHEMATICS—	QUESTION DRAWER..... 319
Solutions..... 313	LITERARY NOTES..... 319
A Correction..... 314	BOOK NOTICES..... 319
Correspondence..... 314	

Editorial Notes.

THE introduction of the revolutionary system of Parish Councils in England is likely to have considerable effect upon the standing and influence of the village schoolmaster. Many schoolmasters have been elected to these councils, and in not a few cases the teacher has been made chairman of the council for the coming year. This is truly a sign of the times in England.

AMONG the words which are in danger just now of being greatly overworked is "stated." In both our newspapers and our correspondence we observe that a speaker rarely *says* anything nowadays. He almost invariably *states* it. It is no doubt very well to state the conditions of a problem, or the facts touching a formal investigation, or even the points in a controversy; but to state what proves to be merely a few after-dinner remarks, or an anecdote or pleasantry, or a bit of rumor or gossip, seems to be taking altogether too much trouble about a trifling matter. Why not *say* or *tell* the thing in the simple, old-fashioned way that was good enough for our grandfathers?

THE baseball and football crazes in the schools of the United States seem likely to be followed, or, perhaps, only suppl-

mented, by a craze for military drill. Even the churches are organizing their cadets, and drilling them with arms in their hands. We read of one band which, under the auspices of a wealthy church, is made enthusiastic and enviable by being enabled to drill with rifles which were in actual use on the battlefield during the fratricidal war of the rebellion, and which still, it may be supposed, bear the dints and stains received in battle. The newspapers are divided on the question, but, so far as we are able to judge, those in favor of creating a nation with the training and impulses of soldiers are in the majority. No doubt the same question will come to the front in Canada. In fact, the drill itself is already here. It is highly approved by some, not only as a means of teaching what is called "patriotism," but on account of its supposed hygienic and physical-culture effects. No doubt a certain amount of drill in posture and carriage is desirable and beneficial. But we are persuaded that what Inspector Dearness has said of gymnastics will apply with equal truth and force here: "Cheerful, spontaneous play is better for heart and stomach."

LESS than two months ago a truth-loving woman took charge of a school notorious for its rudeness and untruth. The other day a boy came to her of his own accord and confessed to the breaking of a window glass, saying, "I am not going to sneak." That boy was among the oldest in falsehood at the beginning of the term. In so short a time it has become a matter of pride and honor with those pupils to speak the truth.—*Exchange*.

According to the prevalent idea, at least in many circles, what was needed in that school was a burly man, capable of wielding rod or ferule with a strong hand. Can any thoughtful person really doubt which was the more effective way? Under the régime of sympathetic moral influence a change was wrought in the ideas and the ideals—the very character of the boys. If the régime were continued for a reasonable time, there would be every reason to hope that many of them would grow up honorable and high-minded men. Under the rule of force

and fear, the outward manifestations of boyish depravity might be checked while the lads were under observation, or liable to be found out in falsehood and wrongdoing, but these characteristics would be pretty sure to break out with renewed force whenever the restraints were removed.

IN the "Contributors' Department" of this number will be found an article dealing in a strong and trenchant manner with the present troubles in the University of Toronto. While we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of contributors or correspondents, we may say that the writer of the article referred to is an honour graduate of the University, and is in other respects highly qualified to pronounce an opinion upon the question. While we cannot agree with him at all points, we find it hard, as will, we think, most of our readers who have followed the course of events up to date, to resist his conclusion that there must be some very serious cause for the intense and almost universal dissatisfaction of the students with the internal management of the institution, and specially with the mode of making appointments to the staff, which has been followed during the last few years, and its results. We may observe, however, that we are quite unable to concur with our contributor, either in his implied defence of Mr. Mulock, whose course, in the matter referred to, was, in our opinion—which we no doubt expressed at the time—extremely reprehensible; or in his censure of the University authorities for the dismissal of Professor Dale. No matter how good may have been that gentleman's motives, or how well grounded his strictures upon the management of the institution, and the incapacity of his associates on the professorial staff, the impossibility of retaining upon that staff one who not only held such opinions of his fellow-professors, but had expressed them in the bluntest fashion in the public press, seems to us obvious. Perhaps suspension would have been fairer, pending the investigation which, it was evident, must follow, and which the Government has now announced its intention of holding by means of a commission, to be named shortly. Of course, "X.Y.Z.'s" communication was written and sent to the printers before the writer knew that the students had returned to classes, and that the investigation had been promised by the Minister of Education.