

**An Educational  
Expert on  
Educational  
Defects.**

The Principal of a very successful school, in speaking of the educational methods now in vogue, said to-day: "I would wager heavy odds that if 50 of the most advanced pupils of a dozen public schools were tested, not 5 of them would be found able to add up a column of figures of a dozen lines correctly, and, as to speed, well, not one of them would be likely to show any dexterity." He further remarked: "Yet these boys on going into a business office would find quickness and accuracy in casting up a column of figures necessary in their daily work." The "frills" put on their education at school, such as smatterings of classics, and of the numerous and heterogeneous subjects alleged to be taught, in public schools, only serve to muddle the brains of boys, and girls too. "The educational craze of the age," said this experienced and successful teacher, "is quantity, not quality; superficiality, not thoroughness." From this the habit is formed of doing work of all kinds superficially, of being content with superficial knowledge, of taking a superficial view of life and of all its interests. A prominent merchant in this city recently required an office assistant. One was recommended by the teacher of a public school as "very clever." The youth was asked to write down, cost of raw materials, wages paid, per centage on cost of machinery, and other expense items, then, the selling price of the products, less discount at a given rate, cost of collection, etc., and state what would be left for net profits. He failed utterly in this practical test in simple arithmetic, although he had taken prizes for mathematics, and half a dozen other subjects. Parents would do well to test their boys occasionally and when they see signs of veneering work being done where solid wood is necessary for stability, they should protect a boy from such mischief by placing him where his mental powers will be really educated, trained, developed and not frittered away by cramming to such an extent as to create chronic, life-long, mental dyspepsia.

**Birmingham's  
Lesson to  
the Pro-Boers.**

A Mr. George went last week to stir up sympathy with Boers in Birmingham, England, "the workshop of the world," where everything made of metal is manufactured. Such an enterprise proved how densely ignorant he and his pro-Boer friends are of English life. Of all places in the Empire they could not have selected one less likely to sympathize with the enemies of England, or more certain to resent violently any insult to, or disparagement of British troops. All the large cities and towns in England are intensely patriotic, but Birmingham is the very heart of the old land in devotion to the army. There never was a greater popular demonstration than when one of its

sions returned from the Crimea with hardly a whole limb, his body having been nearly shot to pieces when storming the Redan, Sebastopol. Though only a private soldier he was received by the vast populace with an ovation befitting a returning conqueror. To attempt a pro-Boer demonstration in Birmingham was such an outrageous insult to local feeling as richly merited punishment. The town too is one of the most radical in Great Britain, so it could not be claimed that the popular uprising against the Boer agent was inspired by anti-liberals. Riots are deplorable, but audacious provokers of popular indignation cannot complain if they get the punishment they invite by their rashness. The incident will have a wholesome effect; it will teach England's enemies how united are her people and how prepared they are to defend the Empire's honour, and to punish all who dare insult the British flag.

Manchester County Court recently gave a workman an award of 11s. Release Set per week against his employer, **Aside.** owing to an accident for which the master was held responsible under "The Workmen's Compensation Act." The award was given by the judge although the man had already signed a full discharge of his claim. This decision follows precedents set in higher courts. In a case known to us, a railway passenger who was, as he thought, slightly injured by a train accident, signed a release on the Company promptly paying him £20 on the spot where the accident took place. On arriving home he was found to have been very seriously injured. On partial recovery, after a severe illness, he sued for heavy damages. His release was tendered as the Company's plea of defence, but the Court set it aside as of no legal validity, owing to its having been signed when the passenger was not in a position to judge the extent of his injuries.

**The Mutual  
Life in London.**

The Mutual Life Assurance Company, of New York, reports having met with gratifying success in the old country. In its first year 1888, the business represented life risks amounting to \$1,628,500. In 1900 the assurances were \$9,083,200. It appears to have found especial favour amongst the wealthier citizens of London and elsewhere. The "Insurance Spectator" states that "One hundred merchants and bankers are insured for no less than \$7,914,480, which is an average for each policyholder of \$79,144. The Mutual Life is evidently making headway in England and is likely to wake up some of the British life offices which have never realized the extent of the field in which they are working.