

The Upheaval of Youth

responsible person who will conduct the examination, and to whom the question papers may be sent.

The subjects for examination are as follows:

SCRIPTURE—The material given under this heading in *THE TEACHERS MONTHLY*, October 1902, to April 1903, inclusive.

DOCTRINE—Shorter Catechism, Questions 43 to 75 inclusive, as explained in *THE TEACHERS MONTHLY* during the period mentioned above.

THE PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING—The Sunday School Teacher, by W. H. Hamill, D.D., chaps. 1-9 inclusive.

The name and address of the Secretary, to whom all correspondence relating to the Examinations should be directed, is Rev. J. M. DUNCAN, B.D., Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

TEACHER TRAINING

By Professor Walter C. Murray

XV. THE UPEHAVAL OF YOUTH

In your rambles along the shore you have doubtless seen a high cliff rising sheer out of the water. Its face, scarred by wind and wave, showed layer upon layer of differently colored rocks rising from the water's edge to the soil above. Perhaps it recalled your boyhood's impressions of the marvellous layer cake or the delectable Washington pie. Your friend, the geologist, in answer to your query, "How was it done?" took you to the water's edge and bade you watch wave after wave rolling in, depositing its burden of mud and sand, and retiring again to the deep. In this way the waters spread the thin layers, that in time were pressed into the solid rock.

Your friend took you inland and showed you shafts of granite, masses of rock once molten that had been thrust up through the layers of sedimentary rocks. He told you that in the distant past these layers had been bent and cracked by great pressure, and that the pent-up fires beneath the earth's crust had burst their bonds and shot forth smoke, dust, flame, and red streams of liquid rock.

So in the life of man. In childhood, the

continued repetition of trivial actions results in the formation of habits of thought and action—the strata of character. There comes a time in youth when these are subjected to the stress of changed circumstances without and the increasing pressure of the passions within. When the passions of the youth assert themselves and burst the bonds which authority has placed upon them, the accumulations of traditions are scattered as dust, and the habits that make for the preservation of the race are torn and twisted beyond all semblance of the original; and all this is accompanied by such an upheaval, and outflow of ensuing passion, that the character of the youth is shaken to its very foundation and he appears to have become an instrument of destruction to self and to others. We shudder at the sight and are tempted to give up all hope for the distressed soul. Greater wisdom enables us to see beyond the uproar of the moment. The upheavals of the volcano bring forth beautiful granite and open up veins for silver and gold; and the travail of the soul of the youth may issue in a character firm as granite shot through with the clear veins of thought, or studded with the imperishable gold of virtue.

We cannot afford to ignore the physiological conditions of these changes. The "clay cottage" is more than a shelter. It moulds the character of its inmates.

The chief physiological characteristics of youth are great and rapid increase in weight and stature, the changes that accentuate differences between the sexes, and the important development, not in weight but in structure, of the brain. The sudden and great increases in weight and stature perhaps account for the youth's growing consciousness of power, and his impulses to test the strength of things and persons to whom unquestioning obedience has hitherto been given. His independence is born of his growing power. This impulse to test is not confined to things physical. The youth challenges authority in every form.

The shyness and awkwardness of the youth seems to be due to physiological causes. Bones and muscles do not grow at the same rate. Consequently there is not