

time the present scarcity of teachers competent to teach the rudiments of art education will be no longer felt. But only a beginning has been made, and years must elapse before the entire work of teaching the rudiments can be safely left to the public schools. The average pupil is too unwilling to study first principles, is so eager to draw something or paint something that he is in danger of being utterly spoiled for any really meritorious workmanship. Hence the Art School has at present to start at the beginning and eradicate bad methods; and the progress in this work of unteaching must necessarily be very slow. What is wanted is a large number of students willing to spend much time in hard study and thorough devotion to their task. A mere smattering will do little good.

The influence of the Provincial Art School is already bearing good fruit. The Board of Education, Toronto, has engaged the services of Mr. O'Brien, the President of the Royal Canadian Academy, to superintend the art education of the city schools. This is a very decided step in advance and will insure no small amount of good material for the Provincial Art School.

The schools that for years throughout the Province have been endeavouring to pay some attention to the æsthetic side of education will feel encouraged to make fresh efforts in this direction. An escape from a rigid programme of practical subjects and a release from the tyranny of examinations would afford welcome opportunity to many to lead their pupils into the inviting fields of Art. A caveat, however, must be uttered against anything but rigid elementary training. Pupils, if they are ever to produce anything of permanent value, must be made to feel that "art is long," and that there is no genius half so powerful as labour. The memories of a Provincial exhibition, or the recollections of a County fair, should be to all teachers both a warning and stimulus.

#### THE PRESS AND THE PROFESSION.

IT is our duty from day to day to glance through the columns of the newspapers for

items of interest on educational topics, but we regret to state that the search is often fruitless. There are occasionally to be found in some of the better sort, fragmentary bits of news, scrappy reports of board meetings, a few "personals," and, not unfrequently, a sly thrust at the inspector or the teacher for some imagined delinquency. A few newspapers apparently with no object but to give annoyance to the teacher, who probably differs in politics from the editor, persistently find fault with the management of the school and by innuendo imply that Mr. A. or Miss B. is not giving entire satisfaction, that he is looking out for more salary elsewhere, that she is late for school again, that the Inspector did not present his report, that he does not make his promotions, that the school tax is outrageously high, that the high school costs too much, that people who want higher education should pay for it, that the whole system is wrong and is herding boys into the professions and weaning them from the farm and the workshop, and many such things that serve to keep up irritation and impede progress. No sensible teacher, it may be remarked in passing, will object to fair criticism of his acts, or will be ungrateful for good advice however much he may have reason to object to the method of giving it. But the profession has some reason to complain that the criticism is often petty, unwholesome and superficial. It has, however, much more reason to complain that the press, as a whole, in this Province, pays but little attention to school matters. Apart from reports of meetings and "school news" there is scarcely an attempt to deal with the problems of education or to put the public in possession of the most important facts respecting it, or to awaken interest in the best school methods. The daily press, it is true, occasionally gives a half a column of news, but the subject is treated as a class subject, and of no special importance, a mere bit of padding that may be crowded out when the annual parliamentary talking-match begins. The papers teem with occurrences, full details of calamities, tales of murder, lust and rapine. A horse race, a prize fight, or