

—and we have rates levied on the people for the support of schools, instead of the old endowments of prebends and chantries for teachers. Necessarily, therefore, the differentiation of teachers from Church jurisdiction has followed that of other professions—as, for instance, doctors and lawyers. But the historical study of the old conditions strengthens the case for registration by an appeal to past experiences of the ages; and, at least, one reflection will follow the study of the question of licensing, viz., that the full force of the old conviction of the need of personal piety and soundness of conversation and devotion to the teaching office, which belonged to the best ecclesiastical tradition of the teacher, should un-

consciously be at work as the true and only lasting basis for a professional spirit in the future as it has been in the past; and for the rest—let us so far, in our national registration of teachers, learn from the old ecclesiastical system of licensing to follow what was good in it, and to avoid its errors and failings. So, finally, we see that registration is no new thing. It was found necessary in the middle ages, when education was, considering the difficulties, so wonderfully organized. And now that we, in this age, are beginning to organize education, we too, at last, have learned to recognize the need of licensing which was recognized and provided for so thoroughly in those ages.

## TEXT BOOKS.

### "MODERN LANGUAGES."

MR W. H. FRASER, in his reply in the December issue of this magazine, ignores the gist of the article he is endeavoring to refute, and confines himself to unimportant side issues. The statements on which he bases these side issues he then distorts or removes from their context, so that his defence, instead of being such, is simply a piece of rhetorical clap-trap.

In only one instance does he establish a sort of case, but the article in question does not at all stand or fall with even the establishing of this case and the conclusions drawn therefrom, as Mr. Fraser would have his readers believe. It seems that a resolution was not passed at the last meeting of the Modern Language Association requesting the Department to make the change complained of. Mr.

Fraser, therefore, could not have engineered the new departure, at least, in this way. It is a little curious, however, in this connection, and worthy of mention, that even before the writer knew that Mr. Fraser or anyone else was editing the new hybrid books, or that there were to be such, he was informed, on the authority of reputable parties who had been at the last meeting of the Ontario Teachers' Association, that such a resolution had been passed. Besides, the statement concerning this resolution was not made as an unqualified one, as Mr. Fraser may see if he chooses to look again.

That Mr. Fraser is cleared by this from the imputation, "malicious" or otherwise, of engineering the "genesis" of the book or books is not by any means so certain as he would give the impression.