

of lessons, and the children should be taught how to learn them, and quicker pupils might be allowed to help the slower.

At three o'clock all who have done their work should be allowed to go. Those who have not might be detained. Those who wish to take more time for study might be allowed to remain till four or five. But after

that no honest boy or girl must study, nor take away their books. This means harder work for you teachers, but by relieving one another the labour might be much diminished, and I believe that parents would be only too glad that occasional teachers to fill up the extra hours should be engaged. This would be much better than paying doctor's bills.

NOTES ON POPULAR ENGLISH.

BY THE LATE ISAAC TODHUNTER.

I HAVE from time to time recorded such examples of language as struck me for inaccuracy or any other peculiarity; but lately the pressure of other engagements has prevented me from continuing my collection, and has compelled me to renounce the design once entertained of using them for the foundation of a systematic essay. The present article contains a small selection from my store, and may be of interest to all who value accuracy and clearness. It is only necessary to say that the examples are not fabricated: all are taken from writers of good repute, and notes of the original places have been preserved, though it has not been thought necessary to encumber these pages with references. The italics have been supplied in those cases where they are used.

One of the most obvious peculiarities at present to be noticed is the use of the word *if* when there is nothing really conditional in the sentence. Thus we read: "If the Prussian plan of operations was faulty the movements of the crown prince's army were in a high degree excellent." The writer does not really mean what his words seem to imply, that the excellence was contingent on the fault:

he simply means to make two independent statements. As another example we have: "Yet he never founded a family; if his two daughters carried his name and blood into the families of the *Herrerias* and the *Zuñigos*, his two sons died before him." Here again the two events which are connected by the conditional *if* are really quite independent. Other examples follow: "If it be true that Paris is an American's paradise, symptoms are not wanting that there are Parisians who cast a longing look towards the institutions of the United States." "If M. Stanilas Julien has taken up his position in the Celestial Empire, M. Léon de Rosny seems to have selected the neighbouring country of Japan for his own special province." "But those who are much engaged in public affairs cannot always be honest, and if this is not an excuse, it is at least a fact." "But if a Cambridge man was to be appointed, Mr. — is a ripe scholar and a good parish priest, and I rejoice that a place very dear to me should have fallen into such good hands."

Other examples, differing in some respects from those already given, concur in exhibiting a strange use of the word *if*. Thus we read: "If the