

that Quebec has secured one who will be an ornament, not only to his academic halls, but also to the cultured society of that historic city.

Dr. J. M. Harper, Inspector of Superior Schools, has sent in his award in the competition among the colleges, academies and model schools of the Province of Quebec for the best kept grounds and outer environment. The regulation inaugurating this competition is to the effect that three prizes be offered for competition among the Superior Schools of the Province for the school premises most neatly maintained; a first prize of one hundred dollars, a second of fifty dollars, and a third of twenty-five dollars; adjudication to be made by the Inspector of Superior Schools, and the amount of the prize, when awarded, to be paid to the commissioners under whose control the successful school is maintained; no school obtaining a prize to be allowed to compete again for five years, and then only on condition that the school premises have been properly maintained in the interval. This year the competition takes place for the first time, and the award gave Stansted College the first prize; the Gault Institute, of Valleyfield, the second prize; and Frelsburg Model School the third prize. This is an excellent means of inaugurating village improvements.

Can any good educational advice come to us from Japan? Here is a reference to the report of its Minister of Education made by a correspondent of the *School Journal* of England:

In the old days archery, horsemanship, fencing, and throwing the spear occupied the leisure of the people; when the Empire was restored and methods of warfare were revolutionized, the practice of these arts fell into disuse, and military drill became the

only substitute for the freer exercises which had preceded it. Regulations have now been issued with the object of promoting the health of the young. In gymnastics every part of the muscular system, including hands and feet, must be brought into play; mere routine is to be avoided, and drill is to be accompanied by military songs. The garments worn should not, as a rule, have tight sleeves, so that the movements of the arms may not be cramped. So far from being rewarded for keeping quiet when out of school, pupils should be encouraged to activity in the open air. Tasks which involve memorizing or the taking of notes impose an undue strain, and should not be given except in case of special necessity. Rewards and punishments by changing the seats of the children or awarding marks tend to unhealthy excitement of the brain, and therefore should not be employed. Boys in elementary schools must be forbidden "to smoke or to keep tobacco pipes." We quote the last of the rules *verbatim*: "Luxury and ease naturally tend to imbecility; in cities and towns, pupils are sometimes to ride in *jinrikisha* or other conveyances in going to and returning from schools; and, though such practice is beyond reach of school discipline, directors and teachers should be very attentive to this matter, and induce the pupils to walk as much as possible." What would the boys in our London day schools say to this conjunction of omnibus, ease and imbecility?

The people of New Zealand are objecting to the policeman as a competent official to take truants in charge. The Minister of Education of that colony has issued a circular stating that in future he will not allow any policeman to be appointed as truant officer; but that instructions have been issued to the police to render all possible assistance to school committees in inducing parents to com-