

be optional. But I think that though students may reject classics, they should never reject the humanities. They may take up science and philosophy without suffering, but they should avoid confining themselves exclusively to science and mathematics. It is said by some that it is better to study nature than literature; yet, man is the highest form of nature, and I know not where to study man so well as in literature. A remark lately appeared in an English paper to the effect that of twelve Oxford first-class men, who had appeared in Parliament for the first time last autumn, only one made his mark. I would suppose that the best way in which a young man who entered Parliament last autumn could make his mark, would be by preserving a discreet silence. There are three English statesmen who stand proudly eminent as having, whether right or wrong, acted constantly on wide views, namely, Canning, Peel, and Gladstone. These were three first-class men in classics. Classics will not give, what nature gives, practical ability; nor what experience gives, insight into human character; but they will foster broad and liberal ideas, which will save men in political life from sinking into the mere hangers-on or wire-pullers of a 'boss.'

PRINCIPAL HUNTER AND THE BLIND.

THE following, which we cut from an American exchange, refers to a novel appliance to facilitate writing and reading by the blind which Principal J. Howard Hunter, M.A., of Brantford, has recently invented for the use of the inmates of the Institution under his intelligent and humane care. As the invention brings within the reach of the blind various subjects of study which their infirmity has hitherto precluded them from acquiring, we are glad of the opportunity which is afforded us by recognition of the invention on the other side the line to give publicity through our pages to what Principal Hunter has done. The extract is as follows :

The Biennial Meeting of American Instructors of the Blind was held Aug. 17-19, at Louisville, Ky. Delegates from most of the Institutions in North America were present and a very enjoyable and profitable session occurred.

Several novel appliances for the instruction of the Blind were exhibited at this

meeting, the most striking and probably the most important of which was the new method of writing the New York point, exhibited by the Inventor, Principal Hunter, of Ontario.

The chief difficulty with all point writing heretofore has been the necessity of writing on the opposite side and in the reverse order of the reading. This has compelled the pupil to practically learn two systems, one for writing and one for reading. The old methods too have necessitated the removal of the paper from the frame for reading, making it very difficult to return the paper to its exact position for correction. For the same reason the point system has been applicable to arithmetical work only to a very limited extent.

By the new method the writing is done on the same side as the reading, and in the same order; the entire writing can be read without removal from the frame and as a consequence the whole work of point writing is greatly simplified and its scope increased.

The means for producing so great a change are very simple. The back of the writing guide instead of being grooved is covered with raised points corresponding to the four corners of each cell of the honeycombed parallelogram; the style for writing has as its extremity a conical depression instead of a point. When the paper is in position and the style applied as in the ordinary method an embossed point appears on the upper surface of the paper. Mr. Hunter has already supplied his own school with this new piece of apparatus and so thoroughly tested its practicability as to leave no doubt of its value. He has very generously declined to take out any patent covering the invention and thus has left its benefits to come freely to the blind. The manufacture of the new guide in sufficient numbers to supply the wants of the blind will no doubt speedily be undertaken.

"EDUCATION."

THE first number of a new American bimonthly, entitled *Education*, comes to hand from the New England Publishing Co., Boston. In appearance it is a good sized octavo, of 104 pages, and of excellent typography, if we may except the occasional disguising of English words in the deformity of phonetics. How far our American cousins have been stung into doing something better for educational serial literature than their weekly broadsheets, as a consequence of what many American educationists have