

EDITORIAL NOTES.

MR. CROOKS, the Minister of Education, has returned from a lengthened visit to England. We are glad to learn from himself that he is much improved in health. We trust he is in sufficient vigour to dispose of the questions relating to his Department that are pressing for settlement.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY is to be congratulated on having secured the services of Dr. Goodwin, late of Mt. Alison University, New Brunswick, as Professor of Chemistry. Dr. Goodwin is a graduate of Mt. Alison, is a Gilchrist scholar, and has had considerable experience of British and Continental Universities. He has had the advantage of training at the hands of Professors Crum-Brown and Wallar, Edinburgh; and of Bunsen and Külme, at Heidelberg, who are very decided in their commendation of his ability and knowledge.

THE attendance at the Normal Schools is, we hear, not so numerous this year as at previous sessions. This is not much to be wondered at, for the plucking at the recent Examination was most severe. Taking into consideration the character of the questions upon some of the papers, especially in History, and the difficulty a candidate has to meet with in running the gauntlet of "groups" and "percentages," we wonder that so many get through. The Examinations are needlessly severe, and do not produce the best results. One result is, the elementary education of the country is in the hands of very young people, mere boys and girls. Experience has had to give way to smartness at signs and symbols.

THE departure of the Rev. Dr. King from Toronto is much regretted. Dr. King, notwithstanding his laborious pastoral duties, found time to take an active and intelligent interest in educational matters in this city. He was for many years one of the Examiners at the Combined Examinations of the City

Public Schools; was Chairman of the Board of Examiners, Knox College, and was on more than one occasion Examiner in Oriental Languages, University of Toronto—the duties of which positions he filled with ability and fidelity. As an educationist Dr. King is fortunate in finding such a field for his peculiar abilities as Manitoba College; and the College and the Presbyterian Church are to be congratulated in finding such a Principal as Dr. King is sure to be.

THE RIVAL READERS.

THE Battle of the Books still continues, but it is not easy from the dust and smoke accurately to discern how the fight is going. One thing, however, is certain: the influences of the strife upon the *morale* of the profession is anything but good. The authorities, too, cannot with any feelings of satisfaction contemplate the results of precipitately licensing two sets of Readers, and leaving the choice to local option. The only redeeming feature about the whole business is the strong plea from the press and the conventions that since more than one series has been licensed, the Royal Canadian series should also be authorized. But the authorities, as if to make amends for their undue haste in licensing an imperfect and incomplete series, which some regard as the worst of the three, hesitate now to authorize a series in a complete state, which many regard as the best. On no reasonable ground can the licensing of the Royal Canadian series be longer deferred. Once more we urge the Government to mete out even-handed justice to the Canada Publishing Company.

"MORALITY IN SCHOOLS."

A CRITIQUE.

OLIVER JOHNSON, in the *Atlantic Monthly* for June, makes a strong plea for