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THE OREGON JOURNAL

THE

HIGH SCHOOL JOURNAL.

"Kunst macht Günst."

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THE Orillia High School Journal.

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of the Teacher and Student.

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ESSAYS AND SKETCHES.

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A WORD OF ADVICE.

It is an every day expression that teaching is a stepping stone to the higher professions, and no doubt this was once true, but the numbers of these at the present time passing out of the profession into others is gradually diminishing. Leaving out of view those who pass from teaching after having obtained a 3rd class certificate, the teaching profession is almost as stable as any other. This is due to the increasing difficulties of the examinations, practically excluding all those who do not intend to make teaching their life work. It at present costs nearly as much time

and toil to win a 2nd class teacher's certificate as it does to obtain a diploma as a surveyor or a dentist, whilst the examination for 1st class certificates of the highest grade is so difficult as to practically exclude all who have not talents specially adapted to literary work. If the minimum age for entering the teaching profession were raised to 21 years instead of 18 as at present, it would effectually exclude interlopers and prevent desertion and we understand that this scheme is at present in contemplation, but perhaps some of our readers may cherish a wish to try their hands at something else. To these a few words of advice may not be out of place.

Fortunes have been made out of commercial pursuits, out of land-jobbing, out of farming perhaps, but it seems to us that the most lucrative profession for a man who has had the education of a public school teacher is undoubtedly law. The enormous fees exacted by the law society for matriculation and other privileges, the compulsory attendance at a law school, the regulation to compel a continuous course of study at the peril of losing all the time spent previous to the discontinuance of legal studies. The restriction preventing law students from devoting their spare hours to any other pursuit for the purpose of aiding them financially in their course, the character of the legal profession as a close guild of the most exclusive sort, the power they have to exact enormous fees for trifling services, all result in making this profession the most lucrative a young man can pursue.

The apathy or ignorance of the public will not soon be aroused to check this aggressive and far reaching monopoly, and if it were the enormous power wielded by the profession in our legislative halls would still check any hostile legislation. So then, reader, if you have the money, take our advice and study law.

TRAINING INSTITUTES.

A training institute bears the same relation to the High School teachers as the Normal and Model schools to the public school teachers.

We cannot speak too strongly of the necessity which called these schools into being, for, before they were instituted our High school for the most part were worse taught and less ably managed than the public schools, especially where the teachers employed had not previous experience in public school work. It is not to be wondered at if these schools are not yet all that could be wished for. The methods of conducting the examinations are slovenly in the extreme, and we have known numerous instances where men of extended experience and high literary attainments have been compelled to pass an examination before a department master in neither of these respects their equal.

Again, no matter how excellent a training institute staff may be and some of them can scarcely be called excellent at all, some of the department masters will not possess powers of explaining or developing teaching methods to the teachers under their charge.

A course of lectures, we think,