

Candidates for this grade of certificate who make the minimum passing aggregate but fail to pass on account of deficiency in one or more subjects, will be allowed a supplementary examination at a future terminal examination on all the subjects on which they made less than 50 per cent.; and if 50 per cent. of the maximum is made on each of such subjects the candidates shall be awarded an "A" certificate.

[Changes in Authors, etc., from year to year, will be announced in the JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.]

#### Comment.

Our High School system is now organized into the form of an Elementary Provincial University, with three or four grades or degrees. The provincial certificate will be equally valuable in every part of the province as an evidence of a certain degree of scholarship. The grade A is optional, and will not be expected to be found except in the largest academic institutions, and in these the classes must naturally be small. This work will be for the High Schools generally what Post-graduate work is for our universities. While the grades D, C, and B contain one year's work each, A then may conveniently be placed at two years—the average time formerly required to advance from grade B to A. It will also be observed that this examination can be passed in two annual stages, for instance, if ten or more of the *twenty* papers prescribed are taken at the first examination, and an aggregate of at least 1000 made, the candidate will be required to pass at the next examination only on the papers omitted or "failed on" at the first examination.

#### UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION.

#### Comment.

The leading universities and colleges of the Province have agreed to accept the Grade B or Junior, leaving High School certificate in lieu of their Matriculation examination, when the certificate indicates a pass on each subject required by the particular matriculation standard concerned. This constitutes a practical though partial affiliation of the Public High Schools with the Universities, which will save division of energy in many High Schools, and therefore tend to produce a higher grade of University candidates, while it will place the Universities in the same relation to the public schools.

#### TEXT BOOKS.

*Comment.*—In performing the duty of selecting and prescribing text-books for the Public Schools, the Council of Public Instruction has availed itself as fully as possible of the knowledge and experience of those who are engaged in the practical work of education. The sole aim of recent modifications has been to secure, at reasonable cost, a series of texts *adapted for use in schools*. Change in authorized books is *in itself* a very undesirable thing.

The prescribing of new books is one of such importance to the country that the most extraordinary care has to be taken to make sure that the ultimate advantages of a change will more than compensate our people for the temporary loss or annoyance always involved in making a change. But change there must be. It is the essential condition of all growth: and we ought under such circumstances to be always prepared for it.

Inspectors and teachers are reminded:

1. That the Course of Study for Common Schools encourages an economical expenditure for text-books by providing a system of oral instruction for junior classes. Too many teachers try to satisfy themselves in respect to their more youthful pupils by placing in their hands text-books not needed in any case, and worse than useless when unaccompanied by proper oral exposition. A text-book should not be required for a child until he is prepared to use it intelligently.

2. That the regulation which makes it illegal and improper for a Teacher to introduce unauthorized texts, by no means hinders him from giving his pupils the benefit of other treatises to whose explanations he may attach importance. The progressive teacher will always have such aids within reach, and will so use them as to impart variety and interest to his instructions.