

means of estimating it will not be wanting. Human energies naturally work toward the end to be accomplished, and if in the educational process growth is required, growth will be attained: if, instead of that, the tokens of knowledge are exacted and accepted on periodic trials, the energies of schools will be directed only to the acquisition of such tokens, and the examination will measure, instead of actual attainments, a ghostly spectre of knowledge conjured from the unformed void of the child's mind in the shape of literal answers to carefully-conned questions. The percentage awarded is the estimated conformity of this misshapen spectre to the form of the perfect ghost. A step toward true reform will be to call the performance of teaching to judgment, rather than, as at present, the performances of the taught.

When the merit of the teacher is judged *in* the work done, and not from it, we may hope that the value set upon that work will appreciate proportionately with its increased value to the world; but so long as the tendency is to lead recitation-producers and examination-coachers to the thrones of the profession, all teachers of true instincts must hold themselves conformable to the system lest it crush them, and do *sub rosa* whatever honest work they can in stimulating thought; so long, moreover, we may expect the profession to be overstocked with incompetent material, for very slender attainments are quite adequate to success if supplemented by a certain degree of positiveness and system in driving words and sentences into youthful minds.

LIFE AND WORK OF DARWIN.*

BY GEO. ACHESON, M.A., TORONTO.

WHEN this Society did me the honour of electing me to the presidential chair, it occurred to me that a suitable subject for my inaugural address would be one coming under the head of Science rather than Literature; because, although the Society is called "Literary and Scientific," yet, of late years especially, its literary character has almost completely overshadowed its scientific aspect; and I would like, in a small degree at least, to be instrumental in restoring to the latter part of this title some of the significance it was originally intended to possess. Ac-

cordingly I propose to direct your attention this evening to what appears to me to be one of the most important, as it is certainly one of the most interesting subjects connected with the history of modern scientific research: The Life and Work of Charles Darwin.

I know of no mind that has exercised such an influence on the current of scientific thought, or has been more effectual in making the nineteenth century illustrious, than that of the eminent naturalist, who, at his peaceful and happy English home at Down, in Kent, on the 20th of April, passed quietly away from the scene of his labours, having won for himself an imperishable reputation,

* Inaugural Address of President of University College Literary and Scientific Society—Session 1882-83, delivered in Convocation Hall, November 10th, 1882.