

leave school. On this ground also the new policy is far from wise, for it takes no account of the future requirements of any one. It seems to aim merely at providing a cheap book because it is cheap and it tends to bolster up our examination system for it aims at little or nothing beyond matriculation and the junior leaving examination.

Since neither publisher nor editor, nor teacher, nor pupil profits by the new order of things, it is to be hoped that it will be speedily changed for something better. As a believer in constructive, rather than in destructive, criticism, I can conceive of a reader illustrating French literature being prepared which, while moderate in price and not great in bulk, would, by reason of introductions, biographical sketches, portraits and sane annotations, so inspire a love for the language that it would be studied earnestly after the school

days were over. And that would be a fine thing for our national life. Most of what has been said in reference to French might be said also of Greek, Latin and German, but at the same time we must strive to advance yet farther upon the road of reduced examinations along which the Department has happily begun to travel. With no examination between the entrance and the leaving examination (the latter not being divided into senior and junior), teachers might do something to replace the disgust for study and reading with which too many pupils now leave school by a keen thirst for knowledge which, though ministered to constantly, could never be satisfied. That ultimate good seems to me to be better as a goal to make for than cheap text-books, which after all are cheap in appearance only and not in reality.

TEXT BOOKS.

MODERN LANGUAGES.

THE Ontario Department of Education is not exactly noted for getting into ruts, unless its efforts to develop a system be one, or for letting its regulations become moss-grown. On the contrary many of its regulations change so often that the very effort to keep pace with them must alone be educative to the teaching profession and the general public. Change is, of course, a law of healthy life and progress, not the change, however, which characterizes the weather-cock, moved by the wind which "bloweth whither it listeth."

A recent change in some of the regulations of the Department calls perhaps for some comment. In the High Schools there have been, as is known, two authorized grammars,

one in French and one in German, while the literature, though prescribed, has varied or alternated from year to year with no authorized edition. Some exercise of judgment and initiative was thus left the teachers, and publishers and editors had, in a small measure in the grammars, and entirely in the editions of the literature a free field and no favor. In the matter of the literature, it was even hoped, if not generally understood, that the choice of authors would soon be left with the teachers themselves, in which case examinations, so far as translation is concerned, would consist entirely of sight or unprepared passages, "a consummation devoutly to be wished." But instead of advancing, even if slowly, along this