

Remedies Suggested.

Experience and a keener appreciation of parental responsibility may, in time, teach the lesson that it is often a father's duty here, to put down the brakes in place of turning on more steam, and the family physician frequently has it in his power to offer wise counsels in this respect. And I am glad to be able to record my conviction that my professional confreres seldom or never neglect to point out the dangers of over mental application. The department can apparently do little more than has been done to prevent its necessity. The separation of the matriculation and junior leaving examinations into parts 1 and 2, which may be passed separately and in different years is evidently a concession to students of less than average capacity, but further relief in that direction is clearly barred by the risk of running into the burlesque of "education, with examinations on the instalment plan." One can see several possible ways out of the difficulty, but none without hazard of grave injury to the integrity and value of the whole system. For instance, if the annual lists were published, as a whole, in strict alphabetical order, and not by districts or schools, over-study, or much of it, would at once cease, but in that case I fear that our fast educational express would be apt to degenerate in a mere decorated accommodation train. He who may be able to devise a scheme which shall prevent all over-study without at the same time hobbling the progress of those with average or with superior abilities will richly deserve the thanks of every one.

Of our Public School system I have only to add that, as far as rural sections are concerned, it has probably, in its present shape, reached the limit of its usefulness, and that unless it be materially altered it will not likely prove equal to the requirements of the future. To be prepared to compete in the keen commercial and industrial struggle of the twentieth century, farmers' sons and daughters will unquestionably need an educational equipment which in kind and in extent the present system cannot supply, and was never intended to supply. This difficulty has cropped up in other lands, and, so far, only two solutions have been tentatively put forward. One is the creation of special schools; the other is the amplification of existing schools. Not the least important objections to the creation of special schools are, first, the deterioration or degradation of ordinary Public Schools which would inevitably result; and second, the improbability that they could be established in sufficient number to better reach the requirements of the rural population than they are now