

the fatal idea that if we can only ensure the "getting on," health is a secondary consideration, and may be risked. Also, the attention of the authorities is respectfully directed to the advisability of having some system of medical inspection of schools to aid Head Masters in dealing with cases of which the following are types :

(a) Girl ten years of age, nearly ready to be promoted to Fourth Book class ; wearing plaster jacket for curvature of the spine, developed in the last two or three years ; thin, pale, weak-looking.

(b) Girl sixteen years of age ; sent

home several times by teacher because she did not seem able to stay at school ; very anxious to attend ; died suddenly a few months after entering the class, of congestion of the brain.

Of these two cases there is no doubt ; they have come under the personal observation of the writer, and are not at all exaggerated. If there were a Physician to the Schools, a medical officer say in each city and town, his services would be of great advantage in cases like these and many more where scholars, for instance, are mentally able and physically quite unfit for promotion to a higher class.

## THE VEDAS.

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NO apology is needed in introducing such a subject to the general reader of to-day. The time has come when scholars cannot afford to ignore the study of the Sanskrit, a language so copious, so refined and philosophical as to make it approach the level of the classics of the West, and which, in the science of language and ethnology, has opened up such a range of new questions and settled many perplexing theories. "A knowledge of the commonplaces, at least, of this oriental literature, philosophy and religion, is deemed as necessary as was an acquaintance with the Greek a generation or so ago." The importance of the Sanskrit was recognized by some English scholars, as early as the year 1786, for in that year Sir William Jones, the first President of the Society established in Calcutta for Asiatic research, wrote :—"The Sanskrit language is of a most remarkable formation ; more complete than the Greek, richer than the Latin, and stands, as well in its roots as its grammatical forms, in a relation so inti-

mate as not to have arisen through accident, and so decided that every philologist must believe that these languages have been derived from a source one and the same."

It is to be regretted that a work so thoroughly begun by such men as Jones, Colebrooke, Carey and Wilkins (who composed a Sanskrit grammar as early as 1795), should completely pass out of the hands of English scholars, so that, since the time of Bopp, Sanskrit learning has been almost entirely monopolized by German linguists ; for even in England the best Sanskrit scholars are Germans. But in England and America, as well as in Germany, Sanskrit has become acknowledged as an integral part of a university system of education. One of the most interesting facts connected with the study of the Sanskrit and its literature was the proof which it brought with it, that England in the conquest of India had but prevailed over a people of the same race as that which inhabited the British Isles, both Keltic and Anglo-Saxon—a peo-