

centage of those who failed to pass the matriculation examination (average of three years) is twenty-five; at Victoria, about nineteen; from Queen's no information at present can be given on this part of the question. The percentage of the matriculants who succeeded in reaching the B.A. degree in their academic course at those institutions of learning, and in the same order as named, was 44, 60, 68 respectively.

We beg cordially to express our thanks to the authorities of the universities for their ready courtesy in furnishing so kindly to us the information which appeared in the last two numbers of the magazine. The statistics given will be of use to all interested, showing clearly, as they do, to some extent at least, in what state of preparedness our scholars, who seek admission to the colleges, are.

We expect that the verdict of the profession on the exhibit will be, that it is unsatisfactory. True, the report from Victoria is that "there is a marked improvement in our later years in the preparation of students." But most significant is the word from the University of Toronto, and all the more so when we recollect the large number who try to pass the examination for admission to this university, "that the percentage of rejection has increased ten per cent. in five years."

The great difficulty in the way of improvement, which we must overcome as much as possible, is *too much hurry* on the part of parents and pupils (on the part of parents equally with pupils). No one, who is not actually in harness, can believe the unflagging keenness there is to "get on"; leave the school, enter the college, acquire standing, graduate, and earn some money. This is laudable and fitting within certain bounds, but these limits can easily be passed, and the hurt received is great and lasting.

The statistics given show clearly, at

least to some extent, how well-prepared these would-be matriculants are, and this information will be of use to all concerned.

The MONTHLY earnestly hopes that the universities will keep up the standard for matriculation; set sensible papers; let examiners read carefully, mark closely, and in due course the effect will be better classes in the secondary schools, better workers at all our highest seats of learning.

VACATION.

EDUCATORS will be casting about how best to spend the vacation which has been so considerably provided by the law for the wise purpose of relieving the hard-wrought teacher and affording a short space of time for rest and recreation. A humane provision this is, and as universally necessary as it is humane; all workers feel the necessity of entirely suspending for a time the tension of the same kind of work, whatever that work may be. No one has more urgent need of this suspension than he who day in day out is engaged in mental pursuits.

The teacher, of all others in this high and noble field, needs a season of entire change of work, and, if at all convenient, change of place. Canada affords her sons unequalled facilities for complete change of scene. Those living in inland provinces can in a few days find themselves by the far resounding sea either on the East or the West. By river, rail, lake and sea they can travel through their own country with a speed and comfort unexcelled—in truth unequalled in any country under the sun. For this high privilege, for this blessed state of things, Canada is beholden to the far-seeing statesmanship, the energy, the indomitable perseverance of the first Minister of the Crown and his patriotic colleagues. And only in a