

nature, will, we hope, form the text upon which our correspondents, of all shades of opinion, will hereafter contribute many a pleasant paper to our pages. To prevent the magazine from falling into too narrow a groove, by merely treating of professional educational matters, some such papers are imperatively needed; and we hope a "Canadian Catholic" will not scruple to take us at our word, and test our impartiality by sending us a contribution on a cognate subject.

We have used the expression "burning topic," and that will be in itself sufficient to remind our contributors that such subjects must be handled with caution. The article of F. R., having been written in reply to an aggressive series of papers, no doubt shows somewhat of that eagerness to defeat an adversary which is inseparable from controversy. It is for this very reason that we desire to avoid controversy, and should prefer it if papers of this description were entirely independent of each other, and not written with the view of replying to or confuting a previous writer.

Our explanation has taken longer than we anticipated, but it is as well, at the outset, to define clearly the position which we intend to take, in order to avoid misapprehensions in the future.—EDITOR, C. E. M.

THE SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE.

THE prospectus for the second session of the School of Practical Science, to begin on the 1st of October next, has just been issued. The lectures are to be open to both "regular" and "occasional" students. Regular students are those who purpose to take a three years' course for the Diploma of the School in Engineering, Chemistry, or Assaying and Mining Geology. The fees are \$30 for the first session; \$40 for the second; and \$50 for the third. Occasional students are admitted to any of the courses of instruction on payment of fees varying from \$10 to \$50 per course. Students taking a practical course can attend the lectures on

the same subject free of charge. The courses open to occasional students are: *Engineering*, including Drawing, Surveying and Levelling, Geodesy and Practical Astronomy, Applied Mechanics, and the Principles of Mechanism; *Chemistry*, both General and Applied, including practical instruction in the Preparation of Chemical Compounds, Qualitative Analysis, Quantitative Analysis, Elementary Practical Chemistry, Physiological Chemistry, and Chemistry in relation to Hygiene and Forensic Medicine; *Mineralogy and Geology*, including practical courses in Blowpipe Practice, Blowpipe Analysis and Determinative Mineralogy, Assaying, and Mining Geology; *Biology*, including practical courses in Biology, Vertebrate Anatomy, and Animal Histology; and *Mathematics and Natural Philosophy*. The Physical Laboratory will be ready for the admission of students at the commencement of the session of 1879-80, and will be furnished with a large collection of instruments of precision for testing the laws of Dynamics, Sound, Light, and Heat.

There is, then, every prospect that at the commencement of the session in October next, the Province will at last be in possession of an institution where the latest results of modern science can be taught in a manner worthy of the importance of the subject. This is a matter for congratulation, and it is to be hoped that the number of students will be such as to make the institution a thorough practical success. In the meantime, and with a view to further that desirable object, I would venture to make a suggestion. With all respect to the able Principal of the School, it seems to me that a mistake has been made in doing away with the evening classes which proved so attractive when the School was located in the Mechanics' Institute. It is the custom, I believe, to have evening classes in similar institutions in England, such as the London School of Mines. Presumably the School in this city has been established for the convenience, not of its Professors, but of the public, with whose money it has been built and equipped. It will hardly be denied, then, that it should be so conducted as to be of the widest possible