

This Province, though young in years, has for the greater part of its life taken a prominent place in educational matters.

Our public school system growing out of that established by that wise educationalist, Dr. Edgerton Ryerson, is one of which we are justly proud, and yet it has its faults.

A few years ago, Dr. Ferguson, of London, read a paper before the Association, pointing out the injury occasioned to our growing youth by the present system of determining promotion by the result of written examinations. He showed how a very large amount of the work done was simply cramming for examination and not true education, and that a great many children and young people were severely injured in health from the unwise but unavoidable competition under the system.

At last, freedom and better order are making their appearance. The Hon. R. Harcourt, Minister of Education, has brought in a bill this session making changes, as far as city schools are concerned, and he proposes discussing more radical changes with a committee appointed at the Ontario Teachers' Association, so as to enlarge its scope next year to apply to all the schools of the Province, thus making our systems more educative and less competitive, by combining with it manual training and eliminating many of the examinations. Our pupils will not then be under so great a mental strain, and will have better opportunities to mature and make the healthy men and women this country requires for the great future it has before it.

Truly we can get along with fewer neurasthenics, neurotics and cranks than we have at present. We welcome the evidence of progressive thought and interest in the welfare of our youth on the part of the Government.

We congratulate the medical schools of the Province on the good work they are doing. Our graduates compare most favorably with those of similar length of training wherever they may hail from: men going from our schools having that within "which maketh them not ashamed," notwithstanding the immense endowments of many of the wealthy colleges elsewhere on the continent.

The rapid changes and development in both medicine and surgery will soon require a longer and more extensive course than at present, and we can confidently depend upon the Ontario Medical Council keeping up the standard required to meet the exigencies of the times.

We can also trust the efficient staff of each of our medical colleges to make the clinical teaching keep pace with the large amount of work now required in the laboratory, so that our graduates may be as skilled in their observation of symptoms as they are in chemical and microscopic analysis.