

With the general tenor of Mr. Houston's remarks on the effect of the ordinary system of payment by results we are in hearty accord though even here we are inclined to think that the great fault is not so much in the principle involved as in the character of the examinations and other tests applied. The best educator is he who most successfully trains the pupil to sustained and self-reliant effort, and it is difficult to see how this training can be more effectively aided than by a series of such examinations as shall enable teacher, pupil and inspector to test frequently the genuineness and extent of the progress being made.

CALENDAR OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

The annual calendar of this institution just received contains full information in regard to its various faculties and courses of study. McGill is evidently thoroughly awake and determined to keep abreast of the times. While it does not abate in any measure from the completeness of its old established Arts courses, its success in establishing special courses attests both the enterprise of its managers and the liberality of its patrons. We have in previous numbers referred to the provision made under the Donalda endowment for the higher education of women. This special course has already been open one session, but the classes of the second year will be commenced in September in new class rooms specially provided and fitted up by means of a donation for the purpose from the founder of the endowment, Mr. Donald A. Smith. As the *Montreal Gazette* observes :

"In this special course the education given will be precisely similar to that for men, but in wholly separate classes, as will be that of the third and fourth years, except in so far as honor classes are concerned. The advantage of this arrangement will be that young women will have the same facilities as men without any interference or the necessity of choosing between mixing with young men and merely cramming with special tutors for examinations."

The *Gazette* further informs us that :

"In the faculty of applied science a new reward is offered to successful students in the British Association gold medal founded in commemoration of its visit to Montreal. In this faculty also laboratories for chemistry, assaying and metallurgy are being extended and improved to accommodate the increased number of students, while some new rooms are being prepared for the large junior classes in arts and applied science.

The medical faculty, which in the past session had its classrooms and laboratories overcrowded with 234 students, is having a large extension of its building, including two classrooms, each capable of seating 300 students, and new laboratories for chemistry, histology and physiology, while the rooms in the old building are being greatly enlarged and improved. These changes with the large and efficient medical staff and the hospital facilities now enjoyed, should leave little to be desired in the work of medical education and should enable the McGill Medical School to retain its position at the head of institutions of its class."

McGill also makes provision for the higher examination of women in two classes of subjects. I. Imperative, including Classics, Mathematics, Logic and English, and II. Optional, including Chemistry, Botany, Mathematical and Experimental Physics, Biology and Geology, English Literature and Ancient

History, French and German Languages and Literature, &c. These examinations are held at the same time with those for school certificates and may also be conducted at local centres.

We congratulate the sister province on the great advance which has been and is being made by its higher institution of learning and its young people on the excellent educational faculties it brings to their doors.

Special Articles.

EXAMINATIONS.

The motive of examinations, and not the examinations themselves, is the real point of attack. In fact, without examinations there can be no genuine progress. Every lesson, every bit of work done by the pupils, play on the school grounds, their bearing, in intercourse with each other—in a word, all the elements of character should be continually and persistently examined. Their should be oral examinations, written examinations, drawing examinations, manual-training examinations, and physical examinations. The teacher should examine to ascertain what and how much of character she has developed; the principal should examine to find out exactly the ability of his teachers; the superintendent should examine that he may judge whether his principals are fit for their positions; the board of education should examine in order to know whether its superintendent should be kept in office, and the people should carefully examine to settle the question whether they are paying their money for character-building or cram.

It is not examinations in themselves, but making, that exercises such a terrible influence upon the children, an influence that has its greatest and most powerful outcome in selfishness, the cardinal sin of mankind. Mental and spiritual death is the inevitable result of making per cents the end and aim of school teaching.

Show me a school system where averages and per cents are the ruling passion, and I will show you teachers who spend very little time in the study of child-nature and child-growth. Unconsciously the demon of selfishness dominates every action which has its end in a high average. Dull, weak-minded children, whose only hope of temporal salvation lies in careful, patient, persistent, loving culture, are driven to the wall, because their per cents are low, and the glory of the school is jeopardized.

In such schools the Master's hand never touches the lame, the halt and the blind. Bright, ambitious, nervous boys and girls are kept up to the full bent of cultivating an almost useless power until brains and bodies give way, and death, insanity or hopeless invalidism ensues, while all that remains of their work is the glittering, useless bauble of a per cent. Fight on, Brother Harrington, the rickety, worm-eaten fortress is crumbling. For long years your loving heart has been filled with the cry of the children,

"Your old earth is very dreary

Our young feet are very weak."

Strike and spare not, your victory is a sure one.

—The Practical Teacher.

Holiday Readings.

SCIENCE AND MODERN DISCOVERY.

The present occupant of Sir Isaac Newton's Professorial Chair at Cambridge University, Professor G. G. Stokes, F.R.S., who is also Secretary of the Royal Society of England, delivered a remarkable address at the Annual Meeting of the Victoria Institute, in London, towards the end of June. Sir H. Barkly, G.C.M.G., F.R.S., occupied the chair, and the audience, which included many mem-