

worked High School Master will not thank the Department for thus forcing him to form a separate class for one set of his students. Nor can much be said against the chapters from Hallam; for, as a matter of fact, judicious teachers of History, give a synopsis of them to their senior classes. But it seems an uncalled for change, to relegate the Honour History to the course of Grades A and B, and the omission of Trigonometry we regard as a very serious blunder. The additions to the University course have been made apparently to counterbalance the omission of the Languages, if indeed there has been any definite object, which from the tinkered aspect of the programme we more than doubt. The banishment of Trigonometry under any circumstances is at once a reflection on the ability of Public School Masters, and a proof of the incompetency of Mr. Crooks' advisers. Any one acquainted with the subject knows that problems even in Elementary Mechanics are solved far more easily and neatly by the aid of Trigonometry, and teachers of Natural Philosophy, who consult the interests of their pupils, are obliged to take up the subject with such classes. We presume that "the directing mind" of the Central Committee will agree with us, that neatness and elegance of method are as valuable in mixed as they are in Pure Mathematics; and when, to insure these results, it is absolutely necessary for candidates for First Class certificates to devote more attention to Trigonometry, the course pursued by the Department must be admitted to be not merely unnecessary but decidedly injudicious. Students cannot learn proper methods too soon, and it is the duty of the Minister to put no obstacles in the path of the master who wishes to do his duty to his students.

We heartily approve of the synopsis of the topics to be studied, given under the heading "Elementary Mechanics and Physical Science." To the private student this will prove of great value, since no text book is prescribed, provided only the Departmental Examiner do what we may say he has never been known to do as yet, confine himself to the course laid down. A captious critic might object that the enumeration is just a

little too detailed, and that something might have been left to the common sense of the student, but the error is on the right side, and we extend our heartiest congratulations on the success of his labours to the industrious compiler of indexes.

Departments IV. and V. are, unfortunately, not represented in the matriculation course of Toronto University. They have had a place in the Upper School programme of our High Schools, but in most schools the subjects have been either not taught at all or taught spasmodically. The present, comparatively speaking, rationalized programme for First Class will in many schools give life to the teaching of Physical Science, and the advocates of progress will condone the defects we have already pointed out if it give the much-needed impetus to the study of science. The Senate of our national University, which should lead the van in all matters relating to higher education, would do well to follow in this respect the example of the Education Department. It would be more creditable to the University and more advantageous to education to emulate the example of London University than to slavishly imitate the mediævalism of Oxford and Cambridge.

To the English Departments for Grades A and B, not much objection can be taken. We have already pointed out a peculiarity of arrangement in the matter of the English History. The recognition of the claims of Canadian History we heartily approve of. The time has surely come when we may be said to have a history, and whence can we derive more useful lessons than from the constitutional development of our own country?

But it is in the Mathematical Department, as usual, that the eccentricities of genius have run riot. Many of our teachers will regret that the master mind of the Committee has seen fit to indulge his itching for originality at the expense of the harmonious working of our educational institutions. Under the head of Algebra we would notice several of these scintillations; such, for instance, as the omission of continued fractions (necessary to the solution of indeterminate equations) and the theory of numbers, and the substitution there-