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## THE CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL.

An Educational Journal devoted to Literature, Science, Art, and the advancement of the teaching profession in Canada.

—O—T E R M S.—O—

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OFFICE: Toronto, Ontario.

We have departed freely from our usual "make-up" in this number, believing that during the holidays our readers will care less for the more practical departments, such as examination questions, literature papers, etc., and will prefer the lighter and more interesting articles, notes, and sketches, here set before them.

THE annual Teachers' Examinations are this year followed by the usual, or perhaps, in this case, more than the usual, outcry with regard to the unfair and absurd character of some of the papers set. Those in Algebra, History, and Grammar, are the ones of which special complaint is made. We have as yet seen but a few specimens of the questions complained of, but feel bound to say that those we have seen fully justify the sharpest criticisms that have appeared. If the object of the examiners, or the Department, is to cut down the number of successful candidates for certificates to the *minimum*, why not go about the business in a straightforward, above-board manner by raising the standard of qualification? To prescribe a certain curriculum and then indulge in wholesale "plucking," by either going beyond the assigned limits, as is said to have been

done in the Algebra papers, or by setting unreasonably difficult and comprehensive questions within those limits, is manifestly unfair. If the fault is due simply to lack of judgment, or to the overweening vanity of examiners—we do not, at this moment, know the authors of any of the objectionable papers—the Department must be singularly ill-advised in its appointments. The work of examining is, however, really a very difficult one, and worthy of being made a profession in itself. We shall publish all the papers as soon as we can get them, and may then have another word to say on the subject.

We have received a choice "Bouquet of Kindergarten Songs," with an introduction by Mrs. James L. Hughes, and notes and questions by Mrs. Hughes and Miss Hartmann. The songs seem to have been selected with great care, comprising only those which have given the best satisfaction and results in the Kindergarten and Primary Classes. The same care has been manifested in the directions for movements and gestures, and will prove of great benefit to the teacher. This manual will be full of interest and profit to the little ones. Price, in paper covers, fifty cents.

THE Commissioner of Agriculture for Ontario has arranged with the Faculty of Guelph Agricultural College for the issue of frequent reports upon Cropping, Live Stock, Veterinary, Dairy, Chemical, Horticultural and Botanical subjects, with such useful information as may be gained in the special experience and researches of each of the Professors. The first two bulletins have been issued. No. 1 contains some notes by Professor Brown on the cost of producing thoroughbred cattle and sheep, the conduct of different breeds in his recent experience, and two or three other items of interest to the Province. No. 2, by Professor Robertson, presents some points for the attention of patrons of cheese factories and creameries. These reports may, we should suppose, be made very useful to farmers, dairymen, and others throughout the Province.

In our Educational Notes and News will be found a brief synopsis of some points made by Principal Austin, of Alma Ladies' College, in his address at the late Convocation. There is not, in our opinion, any question more vitally related to the highest interests of Canada than the one he broaches. A thoroughly equipped college for the education of Canadian women is our one great educational want. As we have often said, the opening of the doors of University College, Toronto, was a simple act of justice, the commonest fair play. But it is far from having settled the question of University education for women, for the reason, amongst others, that but a small percentage of young women who ought, for their own sakes and that of the country, to obtain the highest mental culture, will ever attend the mixed classes of a college which is