

PUBLIC OPINION.

ACCORDING to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, Mr. Conybeare is going to bring forward a resolution at an early meeting of the School Board to the effect that the Board should send a letter to the presidents of the Royal Academy and other societies of British painters, requesting them to consider the possibility of opening the picture galleries on certain days without payment to parties of children selected from the higher standards of the London schools.

MISS KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN says that statistics have been recently collected as to the health of women university students after leaving college; and in particular the life-record of those who have married has been compared with that of the sisters nearest to them in age. The results fully bear out the conclusion of Sir William Gull as to the advantage of thorough intellectual training for girls, even from a medical point of view. The average health of Girton and Newnham students who have subsequently married is better than that of their married sisters who have not been to college. The average health of their children is better. The percentage of childless marriages is less in their case.—*The School Guardian*.

THE families of two writers, both famous in their way, one learned and the other popular, are (says the *St. James's Gazette*) in urgent need of pecuniary assistance. No scholar has done more to circulate in England the best results of German research than Dr. Leonhard Schmitz. No writer for boys and for children of riper years has given more innocent pleasure and laid more soundly the foundations of a love for natural history than the Rev. J. G. Wood. Dr.

Schmitz is living in poverty; he is suffering from a grievous accident, and at the age of eighty-two stands in need of public subscriptions, which should be sent to the Schmitz Fund, care of Messrs. Barclay, Ransom & Co., 1 Pall Mall East. In spite of his untiring labours, the Rev. J. G. Wood was unable to make any provision for his family. "He died in harness," writes the vicar of his parish, the Rev. Alfred Whitehead, who will gladly receive any subscriptions which may be sent to the J. G. Wood fund, care of Messrs. Hammond & Co., Queen Street, Ramsgate.—*The School Guardian*.

THERE is one department of affairs in which all the leading nations of Europe are unmistakably in earnest. This is certainly not the science of education, but the science of war. In this department we have made discoveries that might be useful elsewhere. One very valuable discovery is this, that learning is not confined to youngsters and beginners; indeed, there is much to be studied which cannot be understood till a man has had some professional experience. The country, therefore, provides at the Staff College, and at Greenwich, courses of higher instruction for officers in the Army and Navy who are no longer subalterns or lieutenants. These officers retire for a time from active service, and make a study of their work from a fresh point of view, and with the ablest theoretical instruction. No expense is spared to increase the efficiency of our officers; but some time back the Minister responsible for education rejected a plan for increasing the efficiency of our school inspectors, because it would cost the nation "at least £2,000 a