

The School

"Recti cultus pectora roborant"

Editorial Notes

Teachers' Institutes.—Teachers' Institutes were devised by the Americans as agencies for the training of teachers. In origin they were substitutes for Model Schools, Normal Schools, and Faculties of Education. And throughout their history they have attained their highest development where there were no Normal Schools and where teachers were untrained.

Of-necessity, then, the development of the training school during the last generation has greatly modified the Teachers' Institute. And the development of the Summer School for teachers during the last ten or fifteen years has emphasized the influence of the training school. The Institute which remains in session for weeks at a time and which exploits an elaborate course of study has disappeared from the great urban centres and has all but disappeared from even the remotest rural districts. The programme of a typical American Institute of to-day provides for a session of two or three days and includes discussions on general as well as professional topics. And the professional topics do not always lie in the theory and practice of teaching. With increasing frequency they are selected from the field of the professional status and well-being of the teacher. They suggest criticism of educational legislation and counsel to educational administrators.

Training Schools and Summer Schools will continue to develop and Teachers' Institutes must continue to readjust themselves to this development—or disappear. What readjustments seem to be approaching in Ontario?

In no liberal profession, with the possible exception of medicine, is the expansion in professional knowledge so rapid to-day as in education. It is the special duty of the training school to store up and distribute this knowledge. In the meantime the length of the professional life of the average Ontario teacher steadily increases and with the increase the teacher moves further away from the training school as the source of professional inspiration.

The Teachers' Institute of the future should step into the breach deserted perforce by the training school, and distribute all *new* professional knowledge.