

position, and it is more than probable that the present Chinese system of Examination on the brain would disappear, and the mischievous plan of "payment by results" follow it into limbo.

A capital instance of the working of the present corrupt and inefficient system is illustrated in the editorial in the April number on *School Book Editing and Authorship*. It sets forth, on indubitable proof, "the existence of a favoured house in the book trade whose books are approved by the Central Committee," and "the intimate connection between the Central Committee and the publishing house referred to." The editorial goes on to expose "the intimate relations of the House of which we have been writing, with the senior Inspector of the Department whose books the firm has published, and which, despite the fact that they have no official authorization, have been industriously circulated in the schools of the Province, contrary to the edicts of the Department which forbid the use of all unauthorized books. The gross impropriety of Dr. McLellan's (the senior Inspector in question) pecuniary interest in these books, while holding his official position, is a circumstance which cannot too strongly be reprobated, and the perambulatory advertisement by the author of the book in question, only adds to the indecorous character of the connection."

Of these books, illegally admitted into schools by an author who, like Mrs. Malaprop's Cerberus, manages to be "three gentlemen at once," Central Committee-man who controls the Department, inspector who controls the High Schools, and book agent, it is curious to see how very badly the "authorship" is managed. This illustrates what we said as to the lack of sense of humour in the Department. These books, a crucial example of which is an eminent

inspector's work on Mental Arithmetic, and Miller's Swinton's Language Lessons, the latter of which is manufactured by the simple process of altering a sentence here and there, "the sword of the general" in place of "the bonnet of Mary," in the original book, and by such impudent devices as placing the "editor's name" on the title page, or appending the *Canadian date* "Ottawa, March, 1878," at the end of the preface written by the American author. That the Minister of Education should allow an illegal circulation of worthless compilations amounting, as the publishers' circulars shew, to thousands of copies in inconceivably short periods, is a public question, on which Mr. Crooks will shortly find public opinion express itself more loudly than he expects; but that these book-peddling inspectors should be allowed thus to disgrace Canadian literature concerns the *clientèle* of this review. We have endeavoured, through evil report and good report, to uphold the cause of that literature. We protest against being associated in any way with the proceedings of "adapters" of other people's writings, whose process of editing resembles nothing so much as the process called "denasation," formerly practised by the lower class of tramps, who, by splitting the nose and otherwise defacing children, so changed them for the worse that their own parents could not recognize their offspring.

In the interest of both education and literature, we wish success to the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY. It deserves the support of all the profession, to whose body it does honour by calling forth such essays as that on "Buckle," and the able and scholarly classical reviews in this volume. So long as the unauthorized school-manual-abuse continues unabated, in defiance of the Department's own edict, a scandalous and most immoral condition of