

The School

"Recti cultus pectora roborant"

Editorial Notes

Higher Certificates.—In no part of its policy has the Ontario Department of Education been more successful in recent years than in its plans for the training of teachers. The old County Model Schools which served their day and generation with greater or less success have disappeared to be replaced by a small group of well-placed, fully-staffed, and fully-equipped Provincial Model Schools. The three Normal Schools of a decade ago have expanded into seven Normal Schools with larger staffs, better curricula, and a bigger professional purpose. The Normal College for the training of teachers for secondary schools has become two Faculties of Education in affiliation with the Universities, and education is now a university subject. Throughout the professional schools reigns a new spirit.

The nobler results of these changes cannot now be measured. They lie in the future. But some results are present and tangible. Teaching is becoming a life-work. As every training school instructor knows few students now enter the teaching profession in transit towards other occupations. And as every inspector knows and as the public examinations attest, the scholarship and professional skill of Ontario teachers steadily appreciate. As to moral standards,—well, lapses were not uncommon a generation ago, but it is doubtful if the records of the Department of Education will show one complete failure in the last decade.

One of the most hopeful of the tangible results is the improvement in the certificates of teachers. The higher grade certificates oust the lower grade. Temporary certificates or 'permits' disappear. The last Provincial Report records the appearance in the schools of 27 additional first class certificates, 343 second class certificates, and 109 third class certificates and the disappearance of at least 264 temporary certificates. Ontario has set her face against the temporary certificate and the certificate of the untrained or inadequately-trained teacher. And Ontario is right. The highest-grade certificates are not a whit too good for her.