

The School

"Recti cultus pectora roborant"

Editorial Notes

Educational Crazes.

Public Schools on this continent have their crazes in due season. There was the spelling craze which lasted throughout the first quarter of last century. It was followed by the grammar craze which grew out of the spelling craze. Then came the arithmetic craze which overlapped the grammar craze. Although this last craze has been dealt hard blows by educational authorities who have driven it from many of the High Schools and have thrust it into more modest spaces in the Public School time-tables out of deference to such new subjects as nature study, manual training, household science, art, agriculture, and general science, it still afflicts some schools on this continent and some teachers. It is still with us in Ontario where it is divorced wholly from the practical or where in abstract forms it is presented to primary pupils as number work. Mr. Dearness of the London Normal School seems to have had these late-lingering phases of the craze in mind in his recent address at Stratford. "Practical teaching", he urged, "gives the child something profitable to do and does not consist in vain repetition." "The art of calculation is essential, but our schools do in several years with tremendous output of effort what could be done easily in one year if the pupils were old enough to realize the relation of arithmetic to real life".

The Ontario Educational Association.

The O.E.A. meets at the University of Toronto, April 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Every section of the Association offers an interesting programme. Dr. Foght, the American expert in rural education, will deliver several addresses. All Ontario teachers and trustees are eligible for membership. Reduced railroad fares offer inducements; the Easter vacation furnishes the opportunity; and the need of change of scene and of professional stimulus provides the justification. Why should you not attend? Write at once to R. W. Doan, 216 Carlton St., Toronto, for a copy of the programme of the O.E.A.