

*A National System of Education.* J. H. Whitehouse. Cambridge, at the University Press. 1913. Pp. 92.

Educational reform is in the air. Every civilised nation is astir trying to better the organisation of its educational system. England, long asleep, was rudely awakened by outcries at the time of the Boer War, and she now bids fair to outstrip the rest of the world, so far as educational reform is concerned. During the past decade her advance has been so rapid that the conservatives are gasping for breath and asking "When will things be quiet again?" The radicals, on the other hand, are clamouring for more and are trying to prod public action to still more strenuous efforts.

"A National System of Education" is written by a man who has had wide experience of boys, of settlements, and of educational organisation of all kinds. He is a member of the House of Commons and has the authority of the executive committee of the Liberal Education group behind him.

Unlike most works on education this one is constructive in the best sense. How to co-ordinate and to improve English education is its theme, and none of the ninety-two pages is lacking in some stimulating suggestion. Naturally none of the topics is treated exhaustively, but enough is said to point the way.

Briefly, Mr. Whitehouse and his committee want the elementary school in England to end at 12 years of age. All education beyond this, whether given in day school or evening school, in trade school or art school, is to be secondary and university. The class distinctions between elementary and secondary education are to be broken down. Instead of higher elementary, there are to be secondary schools as the superstructure of primary education. The basis of grant distribution by government is to be the teacher, instead of the scholar in attendance. Teachers are to be better prepared, and schools are in future to be built in clusters round parks.

Some of the recommendations have not been thought out to their logical conclusions, e.g., the placing of secondary teachers in the upper departments of elementary schools, but to Canadian educators trying to evolve better methods within their own systems the book is sure to prove highly stimulating. We heartily recommend it.

The book is dedicated to Professor James Alfred Dale, of McGill University.

P. S.

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Widowed Father (to his ten-year-old daughter)—Do you know, Minnie, that your teacher is going to get married? Minnie—I'm so glad to get rid of the hateful thing. I was afraid she was never going to leave us. Who is she going to marry? Widowed Father—Me.