

vacation. The certificate will doubtless have a provincial value, and therefore every county can be supplied with teachers. It will tend to remove from thousands of mere boys and girls the temptation of trying to pass the third class examination; and it will likely reduce the thousands of surplus teachers in our country. Again Public School teachers will be less likely to neglect their ordinary duties for the special work of preparing teachers, most of whom will hereafter find it to their advantage to attend High Schools. A very careful check will be needed, however, at the Model Schools, on the admission of pupil-teachers under age, since there is no restriction in case of Intermediate candidates.

In the general character of third class papers, I know of nothing which calls for special notice. As a whole, I think they could not be materially improved.

THE INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION

has its friends and its opponents, simply because, while it has many advantages, it is not without its disadvantages. The change from semi-annual to annual has removed some serious objections; while the favourable recognition it is receiving from several of our Universities, the Medical Council, and the School of Practical Science, will greatly add to its practical value. There are still some examining bodies whose concurrence we must try to secure, especially the Law Society and Toronto University. If the promoters and friends of the Intermediate can aid us in these directions, they will take the surest way of rendering it still more acceptable.

Any examination adopted by the Department merely, or even primarily, to determine the apportionment of legislative aid, is likely to be regarded as an unwelcome burden imposed on our schools, and one which does not

furnish such motives as are needed in order to secure the hearty co-operation of our pupils. Such was the Intermediate at first, and hence the suspicion with which it was regarded by both teachers and pupils.

In reference to the instructive and educating influences of this examination, while I think they are somewhat over-rated, I believe a more definite direction is given to our work than under the former arrangement.

The evils peculiar to any such general change appeared on its introduction. Some of these evils may be fairly regarded as inevitable; others certainly arose from overburdening teachers and pupils.

The pecuniary advantages, at first promised, absorbed the attention of trustees and teachers to such an extent as to induce an unhealthy and, in some cases, undignified competition, the evil effects of which are still to be seen. The grant per pupil has become so small that less importance is now attached to the examination than at first. It is generally admitted, indeed, that to be guided merely by the results of the Intermediate may prove disappointing to trustees and unjustly humiliating to faithful and efficient teachers.

The arrangement of subjects and options appears to give general satisfaction. A change will be necessary, however, in the case of students who are aiming at the Medical Council matriculation, since, in addition to compulsory subjects, they are required to take the Science group, Latin, and either French or German. As the time-table is now arranged, only one of these groups can be taken.

Some fault has been found with the method adopted, apparently with design, for lessening the chances of candidates at this examination. If the increase of candidates, to between three and four thousand, be deemed too great, there are several unobjec-