

In some sick man reclined ;  
On couch of down though he be pressed,  
He seeks and finds not any rest,  
But turns and turns again  
To ease him of his pain."

This restlessness, is a sign of disease, and not of healthy growth. Too many cooks, we are told, spoil the broth ; but one cook also will spoil it, if he is continually taking it off the fire to add some new ingredient, or try how it will do in a new vessel. But why, someone perhaps may ask, why be so inconsistent as to object to this continual succession of new regulations, and yet yourself advocate changes? I wonder if there is anyone who supposes that if this association were to adjourn *sine die*, and the teachers should preserve absolute silence, that would put an end to this eternal tinkering. There is a difference too between incessant changes that lead nowhere, and one change that would leave the school system afterwards free to develop along natural lines.

You all know the old Greek story of Procrustes, the robber, who made all who passed his way lie upon his bed. If they were too long he lopped off their limbs ; if they were too short he stretched them out to the proper length. All had to fit the same standard. We in Ontario are in like condition, only our Procrustes is very restless and con-

tinually altering the length of his bed. Naturally, when he lengthens it, all the tall men of the neighborhood approve, and the short men object, and when he shortens it the opposite takes place. Now many, perhaps most, of our educational squabbles are just between the advocates of long beds and short beds, it being at present impossible to have both. There is no other reason for the bad feeling and jealousy existing between Public and High School men ; all would go well if each were allowed to do his own work in its proper place ; but the attempt to provide at the same time for Public School Leaving work and the needs of the High School on the principle of unification and dovetailing has failed. And a similar jealousy is, I am sorry to see, springing up in some quarters between High School and University men, simply because of the excessive amalgamation of the Teachers' course and the Matriculation course. This jealousy between various sections of teachers is not the least of the evils resulting from the uniformity fetiche.

Finally, I may be told, in a phrase we have all of us heard before, that all this may be quite reasonable and very desirable, but "you will never get the Minister to consent to that." Probably not, gentlemen ; that is why I have spoken of a fetiche.

## REPORT.\*

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At the last meeting of the Mathematical Section a desire was expressed that the opinions of the teachers of all High Schools and Collegiate Institutes as well as those of Inspectors and Model School Masters should be sought with a view to ascertain whether the present standard in Arithmetic

is generally considered adequate or not, and that some concerted action be taken, if deemed advisable in an effort to retain the high place so long claimed for the Province in educational matters.

Your secretary prepared a circular and forwarded it to all the Inspectors

\*Report to the Mathematical Section of the Ontario Educational Association with respect to the restoration of Arithmetic to the Junior Leaving Examination.