

However, for 1896, the prescribed form of application will be accepted as last year. But there are very few cases in which a teacher would be justified in recommending for a higher examination in 1896, for instance, a candidate who failed to take the lower in 1895 on account of falling below 400, except it be on D when a "pass" has been made on Botany, or on C when a "pass" has been made on Chemistry and Drawing and Book-keeping, or on B when a "pass" has been made on all the imperatives of the kind which the candidate proposes to omit from the A syllabus: If the candidate made the aggregate necessary, but failed in one or more subjects merely, and was mature in body and quick in mind, it might be quite possible to work up the few subjects failed in, and to do the whole work of the new grade in one year. But licensed teachers should be careful to avoid the reputation of testifying to such unverifiable miracles as, for example, that a veritable dunce at the examination of 1895 should suddenly become a genius who did the work of the past year and of the present year all in one, only to relapse into the normal examination state in July, 1896. Of course, there are always some singular exceptions from which we should not be too ready in drawing general conclusions. But the point is this. If all our teachers exercised firmly and fearlessly good judgment and honesty in recommending candidates to the proper grade of examination, the few curious exceptions would not really call for a change in our present method.

BOTANICAL.

All botanical teachers should, if possible, see the "High School Botanical Note Book" of Ontario, Part I for the *Primary*, Part II for the *Junior* and *Senior* Leaving Examinations.

OBJECT LESSONS ON NATURE.

This is a subject introduced for the double purpose (1) of breaking the strain of exhaustive mental work in school by a light recreative exercise, and (2) of developing accurate observing power in the pupil, which book, and purely mental work alone, do not tend to stimulate. When Archbishop Walsh spoke in Dublin on the 25th of November last, and said, as reported, that he thought the whole system of primary education in Ireland to be little better than a gigantic mistake, he came down to particulars, stating that, in his opinion, primary education should not consist merely of teaching information which was to be found in books. "Children ought to be taught how to use their hands and to be accurate observers." This kind of training is becoming much more essential for success in the world now than it was formerly. While useful to all, it is especially important to the farming and horticultural industries. Why should not pupils travelling back and forward morning and afternoon from the schools in country sections be amusing and instructing themselves in noticing the wealth of beauty and natural law in the earth, rock,