

Editorial Notes and Comments.

Some time ago, Dr. Heneker of Sherbrooke, one of the members of the Council of Public Instruction, addressed an open letter to the Batonnier of the Quebec Bar, in which he pressed upon the attention of that gentleman the anomalous state of affairs in connection with the examination which those entering upon the study of law had to pass. Dr. Heneker's action had evidently been prompted through the desire to come to the rescue of the teachers of our academies who, on account of the number of examinations for which they have had to prepare students, have felt for years the pressure of the work telling against the general efficiency of their schools. "Under the present system" said Dr. Heneker, speaking specially of the entrance examination in connection with the study of the law, but no doubt having also in his mind the examinations required of students entering upon the study of medicine and other professions, "there is no uniformity of plan or subject, no trained body of examiners, and in the uncertainty which prevails, students are led to search previous sets of questions and to prepare themselves by a system of *cram*." Nor was the above statement beyond the mark; and yet nothing has been done since Dr. Heneker wrote his letter to bring about an assimilation between these examinations and the course laid down by the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction. By examining the syllabus of these entrance examinations and the character of the papers set to the candidates, any one will see that the spirit running through them is a desire to approach as near as possible to the system of education pursued in our French Colleges; and it may well be asked, when the striking similarity is noted, why the professional guilds refuse to accept the certificates of these colleges as a sufficient guarantee that those to whom they are granted are far enough advanced in their general education to enter upon the study of professional subjects. We have been told that, in maintaining a preliminary examination of their own, these guilds are animated with an honest desire to promote thoroughness in the early classical and scientific education of our future doctors, lawyers, and notaries. This is tantamount to saying that they believe the training to be had at some of our colleges is not what it ought to be, at least as