

It was a shameful deed of his that was the immediate cause of the expulsion of Tarquin.

Palatinus. One of the seven hills on which Rome was built.

Crest. The plume of his helmet.

Ween. Suppose. *Evil case.* Dangerous position.

The six concluding stanzas tell how Horatius was rewarded by a grant of land, how a statue of him was set up, and how the people tell the story, and

"Still his name sounds stirring
Unto the men of Rome."

Give examples from the poem of Macaulay's use of "repetition and accumulation of particulars." Comment on the other criticisms of the *Lays* given above, with reference to *The Defence of the Bridge*. Read a verse, showing the normal metre of the poem, and another where the metre varies. Pick out words expressing sound.

What Roman virtues are emphasized in this poem? What can we learn from it of Roman warfare, government, social and political divisions, religion?

Contrast the characters of Lars Porsena and Sextus as shown in their speeches.

Make a list of the comparisons, and discuss their fitness.

The *Toronto Globe* tells of a Canadian officer who was killed at the front, that in a letter written to his mother the night before he met his death, he quoted the lines from *Horatius*, beginning,

"To every man upon this earth
Death cometh soon or late."

He had learned the poem from one of his school readers.

WHAT FOREST FIRES COST CANADA IN 1916

Canada has lost through forest fires in 1916 over nine million dollars. This equals more than six times what has been spent on forest protection work from coast to coast.

The enormous sum wasted through this year's forest fires most of which were preventable, would add another \$480 to the first year's pension allowances of nearly 19,000 Canadian soldiers.

New Brunswick escaped the risks of 1916 with a very small timber loss, Nova Scotia having a similar experience.—*Canadian Forestry Association Bulletin*.

THE "SPRINGFIELD TEST."

In 1890 there were discovered in the attic of the high school building in Springfield, Mass., several old sets of examination questions that had been written in the fall of 1846. They consisted of printed questions in geography and arithmetic with answers written on the printed sheets, and written tests in spelling and penmanship. Two of these tests were later (1905) given to 245 ninth-grade pupils in the Springfield schools, and the results were carefully compared with the results of the tests of 1846. The following is the comparison:

	In 1846.	In 1905.
Spelling		
Number of pupils who took tests.	85	245
Average per cent. correct.	40.6	51.2
Arithmetic		
Number of pupils who took tests.	79	245
Average per cent. correct.	29.5	65.5

Of the class in 1846, only sixteen of the eighty-five pupils stood as high in spelling as seventy per cent., the present "passing" mark in most schools. Three pupils had no words spelled correctly; nine had only one right; while twenty-four, or more than one-fourth of the entire class, mis-spelled seventeen or more words. Comparisons of the geography and penmanship were even more conclusive evidence of the superiority of the pupils of 1905 over those of 1846. In commenting upon the results of these tests, Dr. Gregory says: The system of to-day is immeasurably ahead of the school system of the past. The growth has been steady. Whatever may be said against the "enrichment" of the course of study, its "frills and fads," the contention that the essentials, so called, have suffered in comparison with the past, falls flat. It does not follow that these essentials are taught as well as they should be yet. Perhaps they would have advanced more but for the "frills and fads" aforesaid. This is an open question. But no argument to that effect can be based on the superiority of the schools of the past. That is not an open question.

But in the wiser criticism the tendency is not to attack the curriculum because of the newer things that have come in to enrich child life, but because of the persistence in it of subjects for which our age has no need, to the partial exclusion of subjects for which there is a general social demand. The general criticism all along the line is that the