

Our readers will observe that in this Group under the operation of the Intermediate—

(1) English Composition from being "fair" and "very creditable" has become so bad as to provoke the strongly worded remonstrances of the Departmental examiners.

(2) In the case of the English Grammar Paper, the large majority of the candidates obtained the minimum to pass, on Analysis and Parsing alone; while their efforts at applying their knowledge of Grammar in the correction and synthesis of sentences have been throughout such miserable failures that the examiners are forced to say that "under the present system there is danger lest the end be lost sight of in the means." In other words there has been "no proper assimilation of grammatical knowledge."—"Questions demanding thought were weakly answered." English Grammar, however,—pure and simple—is one of the subjects which seems most thoroughly taught. And no wonder; for while it is valued at 180, English Composition, of which Grammar and Spelling are merely the ministers, counts but 75.

GROUP III.

Dec., 1876. "One of the most satisfactory Groups examined. In History the questions demanded of the candidates not only a knowledge of particular facts, but a power of generalization, a conception of method, and a faculty of arranging disjointed details (as given in Text-books) in one comprehensive answer. These requirements were evidently possessed by many candidates. In Geography there has been considerable improvement on last year. Some of the maps were drawn with remarkable fidelity."

June, 1877. "Map-drawing and political Geography were very poor, while map Geography was very good. In History candidates exhibited considerable knowledge of facts, but

those questions requiring a faculty for generalization and inference were either misunderstood or imperfectly answered."

July, 1878. "In Geography, physical and political, the candidates manifested a good knowledge, and their familiarity with Canadian Geography, as evinced by their descriptions of the Railroad System of Ontario, was highly creditable. In Mathematical Geography and Map Drawing, the results were very poor; and the candidates' notions of the latitude and longitude of particular places were lamentably vague. The general standard reached in History is much the same as at the Christmas Examination, not higher than 40 per cent. . . .

Questions admitting of one short definite answer were usually well dealt with, to the Examiner's comfort, while questions demanding a power of generalizing, usually elicited a copious and unsatisfactory reply. The answers to the only question on Canadian History have shown great ignorance of the subject."

The Reports speak very favourably of the English Literature. The answers go to show that the candidates generally have been familiar with the Texts, and have caught the spirit of the authors—a result which, it is unnecessary to say, cannot be ascribed to the "Intermediate" *per se*.

It will be noticed in this Group that, (1) Geography, so far as it is capable of being merely memorized, has generally been good, and is still improving; but the ability to use the facts is decreasing.

(2) The study of History has been very seriously affected. Candidates seem to have at first possessed the power of generalization, &c., but to have latterly shown an almost total want of those mental qualifications which it is one of the provinces of the study to develop, and the existence of which a system of cram would either destroy or prevent.