

—THE *School Journal* says in a recent issue : “ The statement recently made in the papers, that the Russian government contemplated introducing compulsory education in that country, is officially denied. Compulsory education may some time be tried in Russia, but not for many years to come. As there are not sufficient elementary schools even in the large cities to meet existing requirements, any such plan would, at the present time, be impossible. Even if school buildings were erected to supply the demand, there are not educated people enough in the whole country to act as teachers. What the Russian government is doing is to plan new places of secondary education to meet the present needs, leaving the future to take care of itself.”

### **Practical Hints and Examination Papers.**

METHOD OF CONDUCTING THE RECITATION.—There is a good deal of truth in the following extract from Tompkins' “ *School Management*,” published by Ginn and Company, of Boston : “ In the process of recitation, the teacher must avoid thrusting anything between the thought on the point under discussion and the minds of the class. A prominent form of this is that of requiring pupils to recite in words of the text, as if the text were a collection of memory gems. The recitation is a movement of thought on a given theme, and whatever requires straining to conform to language, when the form of language is not essential, checks the free movement of thought. The *memoriter* recitation may be very beautiful in outer form, but closely inspected, it reveals distortion. The pride of the teacher in the prim and so-called perfect recitation leads to formal and mechanical work, which defeats the object of the recitation. This prevails to such an extent that it is well to beware of the pretty and perfect recitation. When a history class, seated ever so correctly, with arms folded, say off in order, each in turn, the paragraphs of the lesson, and repeat by ingenious distribution till all show perfect preparation, it is not beautiful, because not the freedom of the inner life. Yet teachers have commanded exceptional salaries for skill in neat, ingenious mechanism. Two kinds of recitation in geometry are often heard. In one each member moves through the demonstration without a halt, triumphantly following