

Editorial Notes and Comments.

It is difficult for us to conceive what the pace of progress would be were we all to be of one opinion, in regard to matters involving the public weal; and yet it is even more difficult at times to conceive how some men can justify themselves in their advocacy of what is palpably wrong. For example, we find the president of the Philadelphia Board of Control lately expressing himself to this effect: "It is, in my estimation, a mistake to put a woman in charge of a school. Not that I would cast any reflection upon those who now hold such positions, for their duties are performed as well as they can be by a woman, but in the very nature of things, a man would be better qualified to hold the position, and to bring up the pupils in the way they should go, not only from an educational point of view, but from a moral one as well. A man can reason with a boy about matters that some female teachers would not care to talk about." On this the *New York School Journal* makes the following comment: "While there is some truth in this, we venture to say that the most influential teachers to-day are women; and while men have a hold on the older boys that women have not, so do women have an influence on boys that men have not. And it must be borne in mind that the rougher stage, when the teacher governed by brute force, is passing away. And then again the power and influence of woman is mightily increasing. Woman's power as a teacher has doubled in the past twenty-five years." As a third opinion on this subject, we quote our contemporary the *Educational News*: "In our judgment there is a golden mean here as elsewhere which is the safest ground to occupy. We are fully prepared to admit the excellent influence of a woman in the schoolroom both as a teacher and as a woman; we are even agreed that the majority of places in the teacher's calling should be filled with women, but at the same time it will be admitted by all that there is a time in a boy's career when his association with those of his own sex as his instructors is a matter of vast importance. What he needs at this age is the companionship of those who have gone through similar experiences and who know his weaknesses and his ambitions, as none of the other sex can know them."