

undesirable, if the examination is to serve as a test of the real merits of a school and the scope of its curriculum, that the candidates should be confined only to a few selected pupils. But, having indicated this view, my Lords do not desire to lay down any strict rule which might interfere with the discretion of the managers.

In the case of candidates who desire to qualify by this examination for exemption from examinations of the University of Oxford, or the University of Cambridge, it is essential that notice should previously be given to this Department, and a list of the names of such candidates must be furnished on a form for this purpose, which may be obtained on application to the Department. If, subsequently, candidates should determine not to proceed to either University, notice must be given *before* the 25th July. In the absence of such notice, the papers will be sent to the Schools' Examination Board, and the ordinary fee will fall to be paid to the Board."

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL RECORD:

DEAR SIR,—As you hinted in a former number, the St. Johns High School has undergone a thorough repair during the past two years. On the first floor the rooms have been cased in and ceiled with pine and papered, partitions have been removed, and a large front room fitted up for calisthenics and for a reading-room and library. The cloak-rooms, closets, and lavatories have been put in first-class order. On the second floor new seats have been placed in the Academy and Model School class-rooms, the walls having been given a fresh coat of paint and the ceilings retinted. New floors have been laid in every room, the hot-air furnace replaced by hot water, and the front outside of the building greatly improved, the bricks painted and striped, and, in fact, every improvement made that might be wished for or a first-class school-building could suggest. The St. Johns people are to be congratulated on their efforts to keep pace with the times.

A FRIEND OF THE SCHOOL.

Books Received and Reviewed.

MERRILL'S WORD AND SENTENCE BOOK, supplied by Messrs. F. E. Grafton & Sons, Montreal. This volume is issued as a Practical Speller, designed to teach the form, pronunciation, meaning and use of common words. We have always been of the opinion that spelling should be taught from the reader, where the meaning of the word can be learned in most cases from the context. Spelling books favour abstract teaching, and abstract teaching, when the pupils are between six and ten, should come under the surveillance of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. To say this is, however, not to condemn this book altogether, for there are many excellent features about the book which some teachers would favour, such as the selections for dictation, and words difficult of pronunciation, etc. The form in which the book is issued is attractive.

ILLUSTRATED QUEBEC, by G. Mercer Adam, and published by John McConniff, of the Windsor Hotel, Montreal. This is the last published of the series of Dominion Cities Illustrated, and is perhaps the gem of the lot. It purposes to be a guide book *de luxe*, but it is