

greeting warmer and more full of friendship than ever before, for has not our sympathy been mellowing and ripening during another year, short though it may seem? And not alone the old members do we greet with gladness, but the new, and those who come to us as welcome guests. I utterly fail to grasp the true sentiment of the profession here if your visit at this time does not make you feel how glad we are to have you as our guests, and how anxious we are that this brief period of relaxation from your onerous professional duties may be one of the most pleasant and profitable you have ever spent. This Province, though young in years, has for the greater part of its life taken a prominent place in educational matters. Our Public School system growing out of that established by that wise educationalist, Dr. Egerton Ryerson, is one of which we are justly proud, and yet it has its faults. A few years ago Dr. Hutchison, of London, read a paper before the Association, pointing out the injury occasioned to our growing youth by the present system of determining promotion by the result of written examinations. He showed how a very large amount of the work done was simply cramming for examination, and not true education. That a great many children and young people were severely injured in health from the unwise, but unavoidable, competition under the system.

At last freedom and better order are making their appearance. The Hon. R. Harcourt, Minister of Education, has brought in a bill this session making changes as far as city schools are concerned, and he proposes discussing more radical changes with a committee appointed at the Ontario Teachers' Association, so as to enlarge its scope next year to apply to all the schools of the Province, thus making our system more educative and less competitive by combining with it manual training and eliminating many of the examinations. Our pupils will not then be under so great a mental strain, and will have better opportunities to mature and make the healthy men and women this country requires for the great future it has before it. Truly we can get along with fewer neurasthenics, neurotics, and cranks than we have at present. We welcome the evidence of progressive thought and interest in the welfare of our youth on the part of the Government.

We congratulate the medical schools of the Province on the good work they are doing. Our graduates compare most favorably with those of similar length of training wherever they may hail from—men going from our schools having that within "which maketh them not ashamed," notwithstanding the immense endowments of the wealthy colleges elsewhere on the continent.