

bow-arched with hope. Easter is the hopeful answer to the age-long question, "If a man die, shall he live again?"

Some inquiries have been made by teachers in N. B. schools as to the scope of the departmental examinations for the present year, more especially regarding the work in Algebra.

No one can speak for the various examiners who are an independent body, as they should be.

It may be assumed, however, that they will give just consideration to the vicissitudes of schools for various reasons.

While the requirements in Algebra remain the same as heretofore, it is altogether probable that such questions will be given as will be based upon a knowledge of either the old or the new text book. It may be that an option will be given as between Ancient History (one group) and Medieval and Modern (another group). The first group will cover most nearly the work of Matriculation candidates, and the latter group the work of first class teachers.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

A case of corporal punishment in one of the St. John schools recently attracted considerable attention. A boy who had been punished by his teacher, was taken ill the same or the next day, and two or three days later died.

A coroner's inquest was held to enquire into the cause of his death. From the evidence given at the inquest as published in the daily papers, it appeared that the boy had been troublesome to manage, had outgrown his grade, and was a truant. Expert medical testimony given at the inquest proved that the boy's death was caused by meningitis, and that the punishment given him by his teacher had nothing whatever to do with either his illness or death.

The jury's finding was that the boy's death was caused by the disease as alleged by the medical experts. As a part of its finding it recommended that the teacher in question be dismissed and that an investigation be held by the Trustee Board into the matter of corporal punishment in the schools on the staff of which the said teacher was employed. Although the boy's death was not in any way due to the punishment inflicted, the teacher was recommended for dismissal first, investigation afterwards. As the St. John Globe very justly observed, "this is not the British way." Investigation would naturally precede dismissal.

No specific regulations can in the nature of things be prescribed for the administration of corporal punishment. It may be used but should not be abused. Some school boards have unwisely decreed that it should not be used in their schools, but a short experience has resulted in the

rescinding of such a regulation or in winking at the use of such a form of punishment.

The school regulations are as comprehensive as they may be made to permit teachers "to practise such discipline as may be exercised by a kind, firm and judicious parent in his family."

No doubt the use of corporal punishment is diminishing from year to year. Many teachers do not find it necessary to resort to its use. Young teachers are more likely to adopt its use than those who have acquired resourcefulness in dealing with refractory pupils, from experience. It is generally conceded by educational authorities that it should not be used except for serious offences. Gross disobedience and defiance of the authority of the teacher are serious offences against school discipline, and it may be possible for a pupil to exhibit these qualities even in the matter of preparing lessons.

It is safe to say that no teacher, whether experienced or inexperienced, will resort to its use unless it is deemed necessary to in the maintenance of good government in the school.

CHILD LABOUR IN ENGLAND

Much interest has been aroused in the Education Act which became a law recently in Great Britain. It provides compulsory education for children between the ages of five and fourteen years except that children under six may be exempted from attending school or studying reading, writing and arithmetic. There are several clauses relating to the school attendance of children employed in special occupations. Young persons under eighteen years may not be compelled by their parents to attend elementary schools but must attend continuation schools for 320 hours each year. This rule is inactive until seven years after the passage of the Act. In the meantime the required attendance is to be 280 hours each year. Any one who has satisfactorily completed a course of training for or is engaged in sea service is not required to take the continuation course. Any one of the specified age who has matriculated for a university course or has had full time instruction up to the age of sixteen years is excused from the continuation work.

Whenever a young person is required to take the continuation work the local education board may require him to leave his employment on any school day not only during the class period but for several hours in addition in order to become physically and mentally fit for study. Sundays, holidays and the hours between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. are not to be used for continuation work unless the persons are employed at night. No one shall be required to attend continuation school against his will and one month's notice in writing to his employer and the educational board is all that is necessary.

Children under twelve may not be employed.