

highest order, few will deny ; and with regard to their general condition, let us see what Inspectors Buchan and Marling have to state. On page 87 we have their report of an official visit to the Toronto institution, in which they say :—"Considering the shortness of the session and other difficulties, the results seem to be as good as can be reasonably expected"—a neat way of damning with faint praise.

The Ottawa Normal School fares better at the hands of Messrs. Buchan and Glashan, but even their report is by no means enthusiastic. If any class of men in the country is able to form a correct opinion of the work done by the Normal Schools it is the Public School Inspectors. The teachers these institutions turn out come at once under the critical notice of these gentlemen in their inspectorial visits. Let us note their expression of opinion. On page 128 will be found the following resolution, passed at the meeting of the Inspectors' Section at the last Provincial Convention :—"That in the opinion of this section the professional training of First and Second Class teachers is quite defective ; and the attention of the Hon. the Minister of Education is hereby respectfully directed to the necessity of a thorough investigation into the character of the lectures delivered in the Normal Schools, and into the methods of teaching practised in the Model Schools." It is not unreasonable to expect that any new and improved methods of teaching and school management should originate, so far as the Province is concerned, in the Normal School. The teachers there should take the lead in the promulgation of everything that is new in education, so as to be in a position to either recommend or condemn it for the guidance of the young people with whose training they are entrusted.

To what extent they keep in the van of educational progress let the following resolution, passed in a full meeting of the Provincial Convention of 1881, testify. We quote from page 124: "That a Committee of the Association be appointed to consider proposed improvements in the methods of

teaching and school management, for the purpose of submitting them to the Minister of Education, that they may be properly tested by experiment, under the direction of the Education Department, in case such proposed improvements commend themselves to the said Committee, and report to the Convention." It is not only inspectors and teachers who complain of these schools ; the students who attend them have made the strongest representations to Mr. Crooks in regard to mismanagement, of which they have been the victims. Among the new items is a statement of the number of hours per week each Normal School master gives to his work. In Ottawa, the Principal and Science Master each works eighteen hours per week. In Toronto, the Principal and Mathematical Master each gives twenty hours per week to their duties ; but we are surprised to see that the work of the Science Master takes only twelve hours. Surely Mr. Crooks has made some mistake here, for he would not be guilty of the extravagance of paying this gentleman several hundred dollars a year more than is paid to others of the same standing in both Toronto and Ottawa, for little more than half the amount of work per week. If Mr. Crooks' statement is correct, there should be, in all fairness, a levelling up of salaries, to make the payment to some extent commensurate with the amount of work done. We will venture further to suggest, that the spare time of the gentleman whose duties are so light, could be very usefully employed in supervising the teaching done in the Model School by the students, and the latter would then have the satisfaction of knowing that they were being overlooked by a man competent to form a just estimate of their capabilities as teachers—taking a broader view than is usually taken taken by the Model School teacher.

Another new feature of interest in this Report is a table giving statistics of the entrants to High Schools. From this we glean that in 1879 2,654 candidates passed the entrance examination, which was 54 per cent. of those who went up. In 1880 the number was 2,757, or 48 per cent. of the