

manner. And they are to be praised for this all the more in view of the fact that there are still so many people who claim that an examination in any system of education is a defect, rather than a means to improve. Even with the written papers of 1887 placed alongside of the papers of 1893 as a contrast so emphatically in favour of the improvement of the latter, such a complaint could hardly be silenced, and our teachers are now taking the only means to silence it by quietly and conscientiously preparing their pupils to write a creditable examination paper. Progress has ever had its path made pleasant by the cheer of competition, its task made lighter by the hope of reward; and progress in school-work is hardly to be distinguished in this respect from the progress of the world. The idea that there may be a pressure of study in some of our schools has been met by the further modification of the Course of Study and the requirements of the examination, and when it comes to be known that "hereafter pupils shall be considered as having passed in their respective grades, provided they pass in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Arithmetic, English, Geography, History, Scripture, French, Drawing, Physiology and Hygiene, and also in at least two of the remaining subjects of their respective grades," there will surely be some recognition of the fact that the Protestant Committee are anxious to provide a wisely devised minimum of subjects for those pupils who may not be able to undertake the maximum of subjects. As has been said, the practical effects of this modification is to make English compulsory in all grades, and to allow pupil: to take as a minimum any two of the following subjects, Book-keeping, Algebra, Geometry, Latin and Greek: heretofore Latin has been compulsory in Grade III, Model School, and in Grades I. and II. of the academy course as before, Botany, Chemistry or Physics only taken instead of Greek.

In connection with the last item in the report on appliances, I have to point out the fact that several of our schools still continue to fall short of the minimum mark on account of their failing to send in specimens of work. This ought not to be the case. It is often alleged that the date of the examinations in June is too early, and that much of the month of June is lost time. The pupils, having no longer the examination before them, seek to be relieved from attendance, and consequently the attendance falls off until, as is sometimes said, it is hardly worth while keeping the school open. The argument, however, does not hold good, when it is considered how the remaining weeks in June, after the winter examinations are over, could