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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

WHAT advantage the Toronto Street Railway Company can hope to gain by the policy of obstructing the transfer of its property to the city, it is hard to conceive. So far as appears, from its attitude in the courts, its solicitors can have no expectation of any permanent advantage as the result of its unexpected and not quite above-board procedure. If the only aim is to put the city to as much trouble and expense as possible in recovering its property, we submit that such a course should be beneath the dignity of a wealthy Company, having a Senator of the Dominion as its President. If the Company really think the award of the arbitrators inadequate or unjust, no one could have blamed them for resorting to all proper legal measures to secure its overthrow, but the spectacle presented by their President on Saturday night in refusing admission to the railway premises, to the Mayor acting on behalf of the city and in strict accordance with the legal award, and by their lawyers in the courts in seeking to delay the course of proceedings by mere technicalities, is not an edifying one. It is scarcely possible that they can expect to gain anything save a few days' delay. It is matter for congratulation that the representatives of the city were so well advised as to wait patiently the slow processes of the courts rather than take forcible possession of the property which was legally theirs. It is highly probable that the city will have received the order of the court, and have taken possession of the railway and its appurtenances, before this comes to the hand of the reader, though there is of course a possibility that the ingenuity of the Company's lawyers may find means of prolonging the vexatious delay. In any case the affair can have but one issue.

THE Toronto Humane Society has recently issued an eight-page pamphlet giving full information concerning the organization and working of Bands of Mercy in connection with the public schools. We are glad to learn that it is the intention of the Society to place one of these pamphlets in the hands of every teacher in the Province. We are sure that nothing but good can result from the work of the Society in thus calling the attention of those who have larger opportunities than any other persons,

parents only excepted, for moulding the habits of thought and feeling of the young, to the importance of cultivating in them sentiments of kindness towards all inferior animals. It is, happily, coming in these days to be more clearly seen than ever before that the duty of the teacher in relation to the formation of character should be held paramount even to his work in the training of intellect, which has so long been regarded as the chief if not the only proper work of the school. No one who has studied the nature of children and the manner in which the influences which are most potent in the formation of their mental and moral habits operate during the period of school-life can doubt that much of the coarse and cowardly brutality which abounds, to the disgrace of human nature, in country and city, is but the development of traits which began to manifest themselves in childhood, and which might then, in most cases, have been easily and effectually checked. All observation goes to prove the truth of the tender-hearted poet's observation that there is in the perverse heart of childhood no budding ill which "sooner shoots, if unrestrained, into luxuriant growth" than the truly devilish attribute of cruelty. Yet cruelty in its inception is no doubt in most cases the offspring of ignorance and want of thought. There are few children, we venture to affirm, who, if taken early enough, have not that in their natures which can easily be trained to revolt at the thought of inflicting unnecessary pain upon any helpless creature. To do so is contrary to all that is manliest and bravest, and the boy can generally be taught to abhor anything of the kind if shown how cowardly it is and how clearly it is the antithesis of the chivalric spirit which prompts the strong and manly to protect the weak. Probably most of us have at one time or another witnessed such incidents as that recently told by one who, passing along a by-street, found a number of boys engaged in the pastime of torturing, by such horrible devices as poking sharp sticks into its eyes, a poor horse which, its strength having utterly failed, had been left by some cruel wretch to die in the gutter. Worst of all, half a dozen stalwart men were sitting near and taking no notice of the shocking performance. If the boy is father of the man, it is not hard to tell how the wife-beaters and other cowardly bullies who so disgrace our civilization are reared, so long as such boys abound. We were glad to observe that a prominent clergyman of this city last Sunday dealt with this subject very appropriately and feelingly from his pulpit. We heartily wish, not only in pity for the suffering animals, but even far more for the sake of the coming men and women of our country, that parents and preachers, teachers in day and Sunday schools, and all who have to do in any way with the training of the young felt more deeply the importance of cultivating on all occasions that divine quality of mercy which "blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

AT the recent Special Convocation of the University of Toronto for the purpose of conferring medical degrees, it was strongly urged by the Dean of the Medical Faculty that, since the people receive much benefit from medicine, they might justly be taxed to support a professorship of Sanitary Science and to establish a School of Pathology. In harmony with that view, and possibly as the outcome of the suggestion, the Senate of the University of Toronto has appointed an influential deputation to urge upon the Government to constitute Anatomy, Pathology and Sanitary Science a part of the work of the University, and to assist in providing the requisite means. As this proposal involves some very serious questions, it is well that it should be carefully considered both by the Government and by the people before it is allowed to prevail. We refer, of course, solely to that feature of it which involves the taxation of the people, or what amounts to the same thing, the diversion of a portion of the funds of the Provincial University for the purpose. The more wealthy private citizens can be induced to devote some portion of their means for the furtherance of such objects the better. But even were the proposal not complicated by the existence of voluntary and self-sustaining colleges, chartered by the Government, it would be one of doubtful justice and propriety. As we have before had occasion to say we have not yet seen any good reason to doubt the soundness

of the familiar principle of political economy, that the State is not justified in using public funds to produce an article which experience proves that private enterprise is abundantly able to supply. A profession is, as has been well said, the capital of the man who practices it. It is the source of his income, like the stocks or lands of the capitalist, the ships of the merchant, or the goods of the tradesman. The State cannot furnish the capital to all classes. Why select one or two special professions to be thus favoured? Are we told to look at the achievements of Medical Science—at what this and that great surgeon or physician has done for humanity? But in order to make the argument available it must be shown that it was the aid rendered by a State-aided Medical School, rather than their own superior talents and devotion to their profession, that enabled these famous men to accomplish so much. Otherwise the argument goes to prove that the State should stimulate genius by rewarding the individuals who have achieved such results, rather than use the public funds for making Doctors of others, a large percentage of whom will never become very useful or very famous. If again, the country were suffering from a dearth of skilled physicians, or if self-interest and professional enthusiasm were failing to provide an adequate number of well-equipped Medical Colleges, there might be some ground for advocating the endowment of one at the public cost, and for increasing that endowment as now proposed. But when we have already, besides the Government Institution, five independent Medical Colleges in Ontario, all chartered by the Government, and all claiming to teach efficiently the subjects above-named, without aid from the public funds, it is not easy to see how the Government could, with any regard either to the public interests or to fair play between the Colleges, make the sixth its special beneficiary in the manner proposed, thus giving it a still further advantage over its competitors chartered by the same Government, and sending their students before the same Examining Board. The proposal bristles with objectionable features, but looking to the very highest practical consideration, that of the progress of Medical Science, we believe it would not be hard to show that, as a rule, independent self-reliance, healthful competition and professional enthusiasm are much more potent factors in all successful scientific work than any pecuniary favours bestowed by the State.

THE recent amalgamation of two of the largest firms engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements in the Province of Ontario brings again to the surface a vexed question in political economy. An amalgamation is not a combine, it is true, and we do not suppose any fair or reasonable legislation could interfere with the right of two firms, any more than with that of two individuals, to enter into a *bona fide* business partnership. And yet the effect is evidently the same, so far as the destruction of competition between the two firms is concerned, as that of a combine. In the present case it is noteworthy that the amalgamation seems to be approved rather than otherwise by the general public. This is owing partly, no doubt, to the high personal characters of the leading members of the two companies, and partly to the obvious fact that combination of capital and business appliances must mean a great saving in the cost of manufacture and should mean a corresponding reduction in the price of the manufactured implements. The wastefulness of the competitive methods has become so obvious that the statement of the fact is now a commonplace in the discussion of such topics. Nothing can better illustrate how very far our boasted modern methods of production and distribution are from having attained any ideal excellence than to picture to ourselves the results that might be could all the capital, skill and labour employed in any one important line of manufacture be consolidated under one management, and honestly and energetically used to save all the waste of means and energy now resulting from unnecessary duplications, and give the public the benefit of the saving. And yet, on the other hand, one has but to imagine the process of amalgamation which has just now been carried out between the two firms above referred to, extended until it should embrace all the individuals and firms engaged in the business in the Province, or, as one might conceive, in