

States nor in England is there any central authority which appoints teachers to positions in the schools. In both countries appointments are made locally. But much might be done by means of a joint committee which would disseminate information as to vacancies, examine the credentials of applicants, facilitate the exchange of references, and

bring the idea of such interchange of qualified teachers effectively before the public in the two countries. Beginning in a small way the experiment would be tested by its results, and personally I believe that it would lead to a fruitful interchange of ideas, of suggestions, and of experience.—*School Journal*, N. Y.

THE YOUNG MAN AND HIS COMPANIONS.

By Rev. Hugh Black, M.A.

Nothing in a young man's life deserves more, and as a rule receives less, attention than this subject. It will be perhaps more useful to show why the subject is so important rather than to give descriptions of the different sorts of companionships common among men. A principle of action clearly presented to us is always more powerful than mere detailed good advice. In a general, vague way we acknowledge that evil companionships should be avoided and good ones encouraged, but, unless we are impressed with the reason why this is so, it usually ends with a pious opinion which has little effect on conduct.

The principle here is the law of environment. We usually take an outside and very surface view of what environment means. We think of it as our outward surroundings, conditions of work, and conditions of home, and the like. It is chiefly as a physical question that we consider it, and imagine that, if we could but improve the material lot of the people, if we could sweeten the conditions of living, then we should avert all the possible evil of the law of environment.

Of course there is very much in this aspect of the subject, and we should encourage every effort towards the amelioration of the surroundings of life. But the law of environment is a far subtler thing than all that, and cuts deeper into our lives. After all has been said about material conditions, it has to be remembered that the chief environment of a human life does not consist of things, but of *persons*.

It is an influence that begins from the cradle. The conditions of work and conditions of houses and streets and civic arrangements are so important because they represent this subtler personal factor. They are powerful agents in influencing habits and affecting character just because they are impregnated with the lives of others. The people make the homes and the workshops and the towns, which have such influence over our lives. When we think of it, we see that all the permanent influences of life come from persons. Home is not just the walls where furniture is stored, but the place where others exercise their weird influence over us.

If you analyze the conditions of your work which you feel has a