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Editorial Notes.

WE direct attention to the advertisement of the Toronto Conservatory of Music in this issue. The Conservatory advertises a summer normal session, from July 9th to August 11th, with courses of study specially adapted to the needs of those who are unable to attend except during vacation. We are glad to see the musical wants of the profession so well provided for this summer.

CAN any reasonable mortal give any good reason for the practice of increasing the length of vacations in ratio with the age and attainments of the children? The reverse would surely be the more reasonable rule. The younger the child, the more need of time to run and play and grow. Amongst many absurd and injurious customs that grow up one knows not how, that of giving shorter vacations in the common schools than in the high schools and colleges is one of the most indefensible.

THE story told by "Clarence," in our Hints and Helps Department, of the teacher who promoted the pupil who gave "astonishment" as the meaning of *surprise*, over the head of the one who gave a much better answer in her own simple words, conveys a valuable lesson. Teachers of that stamp are, it may be hoped, becoming rare nowadays, but we think we have met just such cases. An ounce of clear-headed intelligence in the answer of a pupil is worth more than a pound of big synonymous words.

A UNITED STATES exchange tells us that more than fifty years ago prominent American women founded the college in Athens for the higher education of Greek young women. The institution has educated more than 20,000 girls, and been a means of blessing throughout the Orient. The pupils are found doing philanthropic and missionary work in remote Eastern Asia Minor, in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy and elsewhere. The influence of the college upon the women of Greece is said to have been most helpful.

WE have on hand several good articles that were prepared for different conventions, and which we have been requested by the teachers to publish. We shall gladly do so, at the earliest opportunity. Fortunately most of them will keep. We have also a valuable practical paper on "Promissory Notes and Drafts,"

kindly sent us by Mr. J. W. Johnson, F.C.A., Principal of Ontario Business College. This we will publish in instalments after the holidays, so that teachers may have the full benefit of it in connection with their work.

ARE there still schools in this enlightened country in which children of tender years are expected to do brain work for six hours a day? Very few adult minds, inured to hard work, can keep up their attention for that length of time. But all the minutes or hours spent in trying to teach the child, or induce him to study, after his power of attention is exhausted, are wasted. They are worse than wasted, because they are disgusting him with the work that should be a delight. By all means let at least the little ones under nine or ten years of age run away home at three o'clock or before.

THE true nobleness of the teacher's calling is seen from the character of the material upon which he operates. The architect who builds a noble cathedral, the artist who carves a breathing statue, the painter who makes the canvas glow with the semblance of living forms, are all working for posterity. But canvas, marble, granite, all are perishable. The plastic material with which the teacher has to deal is imperishable, and the impress of his moulding hand must endure so long as the mind on which he works shall continue to "flourish in immortal youth." It is inconceivable that an impression once made for good or evil, upon a living mind, can ever pass away, so as to leave no trace in that mind's history.

THE Minister of Education has called a convention of the rural Public School Inspectors of the Province to meet at the Education Department on Tuesday, the 21st of August, for a session of at least three days. This is to be followed at a later date by a similar meeting of city and town inspectors. The object as announced is to afford an opportunity of comparing methods of inspection and fully considering the best way of making official visits serviceable to both pupils and teachers. It is thought that the status of Public Schools may be raised and the educational interests of the Province generally benefited by such an interchange of views and experiences. The idea is an excellent one, and can hardly fail to be fruitful of good results.

OUR correspondents and contributors will please bear with us if their communications are