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## The Educational Journal.

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## Editorial Notes.

### QUESTION DRAWER in next issue.

THANKS to the friends who have sent us contributions for our "School-room Methods" department. One or two we have been unable to use as yet because of the somewhat complicated diagrams. It is well to avoid these unless absolutely necessary. Rectilinear figures can usually be given without much difficulty. But please send on whatever you have that is likely to be helpful to others. We want to see this department of the paper greatly developed.

THE London *Free Press* does well to complain bitterly of the action of the School Board in that city, in having had "a well sunk in much defiled soil, and the water of a very nasty kind given to the children of the Park St. School." This is most extraordinary in a city which has been at large expense in securing a supply of pure water. The well in question has been petitioned against and it may be hoped will be speedily abolished. School children are inveterate water drinkers, and should have an abundance of the purest water that can be procured.

IN a paper read before an English educational association, Mr. Isaac Pitman presented some propositions which are startling, if true. He said that a million pounds yearly are wasted by the present method of teaching reading in our elementary schools, and that this sum may be saved by the use of phonetic reading books. He argued, also, that a hundred million hours yearly are wasted in writing by those who speak the English language, which might be saved were shorthand in general use. These statements were sustained by elaborate calculations. The matter is certainly worth thinking about.

It is gratifying to note that the number of women entering the colleges of the Dominion is steadily increasing from year to year. In the United States the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, composed of women who have graduated from the fourteen principal American colleges to which women are admitted, is doing much to further the cause of the higher education of women. Among the names published

in its list of 648 members are those of many women who have distinguished themselves for honest intellectual work, not a few of whom have a fame that extends throughout the country.

AN English Reading Book has lately been published by Dr. Landmann, of Leipsic, for the use of young Germans learning the English language. It consists of a single number of the *London Times*, with notes and explanations of the text, sufficient to enable the learner to understand what he reads. The idea is, of course, that the student is in this way brought into contact with the actual, living language as it is in use to-day, not as it exists in the classic models of two or three centuries ago. The only question is, to what extent do the words and style of the *Times* itself represent the every-day English of business and social life? If the republication were confined to the editorials there might be room for doubt on this point, but as it includes news items, reports, advertisements, etc., and as everybody reads some part at least of such a paper as the *Times*, the probability is that the new book will answer its purpose admirably. The idea is excellent, at least, for the fruitful germs it contains.

DR. E. HITCHCOCK, JR., Acting Professor of Physical Culture at Cornell University, in his last annual report presents some interesting data which, it is claimed, establish two important points in reference to gymnasium work, viz., first, that it develops the physical powers in the direction of health, strength, and endurance; second, that it does not prevent but rather promotes brain development. The evidence presented seems to afford irrefutable evidence of the value of the required gymnastic work in the physical development of the student. In regard to the second point Dr. Hitchcock's report proves conclusively, it is claimed, the fallacy of the argument that students who devote their time to college sports necessarily neglect their studies and are "low stand men." Several tables of the standing of the crews, athletic teams, and ball nines are presented, and from these it is shown that since rowing was first attempted in the university the average standing of the Cornell oarsmen has been seventy on a scale of 100; that of the base-ball teams for the years '85, '86, and '87 is seventy-three, and of the athletic teams for the same years seventy-six.