

clergymen are possessed of varied and multiplied excellencies, among which, however, are not special qualifications to serve on county boards. And seeing how sensitively jealous these professions are of any outside interference with their own guild rights and immunities, I am only surprised that they did not long ago themselves protest against being placed in a position where they were compelled to do unto others as they would not that others should do unto them. It would, in my opinion, be a still further improvement to throw, for examination purposes, two or three adjacent counties into one so as to make the joint board a larger body. And to make it still more independent of local influences, which tend to relax, which, in this case, strongly tend to relax, vigor and stringency of function, it may be found necessary to give one or more appointees of the department seats in each of these joint county boards as a guarantee to both the public and the central authorities that these examinations, which are certainly not the least important in the whole series, are real and not merely perfunctory.

#### He Discourages Cramming.

I have no sympathy with the cry that the department encourages cramming in the High Schools. As far as I can interpret the spirit and intent of the departmental regulations and instructions to examiners, every possible preventive measure that can be adopted is explicitly enjoined, and moreover, the eminently real and practical teaching done in the High Schools would seem of itself to render cramming in most subjects impossible. And, further, in the few subjects such as history and geography, in which cramming might be resorted to, the peculiar forms of the questions given on the examination papers would seem designed to preclude anyone who had merely crammed for the test from passing it at all. But while there is not and cannot be much cramming in the only sense in which careful people use that term, there can be, and I fear there is, a very lamentable amount of over study in connection with High School work. I regard this as the worst feature of the entire system, but I am not very clear as to where the responsibility rests or what remedy can be applied to prevent or to lessen the evil. Yet, system, sir, is an eminently successful system. I doubt whether more work or better work is accomplished in Public and High Schools anywhere else in the world. I will go further and say I doubt whether as much good work is done anywhere else in schools of a similar grade. But to accomplish these desirable results your schools are run at high pressure. Your system is