

CONTRIBUTORS' DEPARTMENT.

THE TORONTO NORMAL SCHOOL.

A STUDENT'S EXPERIENCES.

To the Editor of the C. E. M.

SIR,—Having been a successful student at the Toronto Normal School, and fully realizing the injustice to which the students in training are subjected, I consider it my duty to the public to give a short account of the manner in which affairs are conducted in that Institution.

LOSS OF TIME.

For the first two or three weeks of the term nothing of any account is done. The students are told to assemble at the legal hour in the waiting-room, where they generally remain till about 9.15 or 9.20, before being rung to the class-room; and frequently, between the dismissal of one class and the calling of another, there is an interval of from fifteen to twenty-five minutes. This state of procedure lasts for about the first two months. After about a month has passed a time-table is constructed, but not adhered to; so that the student very seldom knows what to prepare. According to the time-table he prepares a certain subject, and when the time for that subject arrives, some other subject is taken; thus causing him generally to be unprepared, merely through a *want of system*.

USELESS EXPENDITURE IN BUYING UN-NECESSARY BOOKS.

The student is compelled to buy a number of books which are not used at the Normal at all, and which he will not need after he leaves that Institution; and he is suspended if he enters the class without them. He is compelled to purchase his books at the Education Department, when the same kind can be pro-

cured at a much lower price at bookstores in the city. For example, the writer bought Mrs. Graham's "Reasonable Elocution" at Messrs. Willing & Williamson's, for \$1.25, when the Education Department charged \$1.40 for the same book.

MUSIC AND DRAWING CLASSES.

Through some cause, probably known to the principal, the music-master fails to make an appearance for several weeks at a time, and even when he is present, the lesson, and manner of conducting it, is of very little value to the student. When the writer attended, he received but *six* lessons in music during the whole term.

In the drawing exercises the student is generally at a loss to know what to prepare, or how to prepare it. He cannot get information from the teacher as to what he may expect to be examined upon, for it seems the teacher is kept in ignorance of that fact himself; and thus, at the final, he does not get questions bearing on anything that he has studied during the term. The manner in which these two subjects are taught provokes a good deal of criticism among the teachers in training.

NOTES ON EDUCATION OF LITTLE VALUE.

The student derives little, if any, benefit from the notes on Education that are given him to prepare, and they cannot be brought to bear upon any question given at the final examination; and more than this, they are not even in accord with the system pursued in the Model School.

FINAL EXAMINATION.

Students at this examination are not all served in the same way. At one examination, the students are allowed to read their