

#8 not a student?

THE O. A. C. REVIEW.

The Dignity of a Calling is its Utility.

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THE O. A. C. REVIEW,

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THE O. A. C. REVIEW will spare no endeavor to furnish reliable news and information to those interested in farming operations.

Ex-students will confer a great favor on the Editors of this Journal by sending news, particularly experiences of practical value.



EDITORIAL.

Owing to the fact that no essays at the proper time had been received for the prize offered by the Literary Society on the subject, "The Ontario Agricultural College as a Link in our Educational System," of which due notice was given in our March number, it was resolved at a recent meeting of the committee to withhold the prize until next year when it will be offered again. Those who have written essays may preserve them until then and those who have not, we hope will make an effort to contribute a first-class article so that not only will it be a credit to the winner, but also may do much good towards increasing the number of students in attendance at the only farmers' college in the Province.

Due notice will be given of any changes that may be made in the rules of the competition and, if none are announced, they will be the same as stated in the March number of this year.

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Nearly every institution of learning in the Province, from the public school to the Provincial University, feels the great deficiency there is among those who attend, in a proper knowledge

of that branch of learning upon which all other branches are dependent that they may be of the greatest utility, namely: English. We were hardly prepared to hear the Chancellor of one of the great Universities of the Continent endeavoring to impress upon its graduates the need there was that each and every graduate should be able to express him or herself in good English, as we had thought that such a thing was wholly unnecessary. The fact, however, is too plain to be ignored, and something ought to be done that students who go up to the higher institutions of learning may have a better grasp of their mother tongue. But how shall this be accomplished?

First—The time to commence is in the home before a child is sent to school at all. All parents should endeavor to have a child speak properly from its earliest lisping. Why speak baby talk to it when plain English would be as well understood and is as easily learned as the tootsy wootsy nonsense commonly addressed to children?

When the child is older don't say, "John go and bring in them air calves and mind yer don't hang *out*ter their tails," but try and improve on backwoods phraseology. If Sarah says, "Can me and John go to the woods to pick flowers?" gently correct her but above all things practise what you preach, because example teaches more forcibly than precept. Space forbids enlargement upon this point and the next must also be shortened for the same reason.

The second point that needs attention is the manner of teaching English in the public schools. Not one boy or girl out of ten cares to study any part of English, but especially grammar, for the reason that not one teacher out of ten knows how to make English an interesting study. The majority set the pupils to learn dry definitions which are forgotten more quickly than they are memorized, and for which pupils, as a rule, have a great disgust. Great care is required on the part of teachers that those who are placed in their charge should not get a dislike for the subject, as a dislike once acquired is difficult to get wholly freed from, and hence the need there is for special attention when a child is beginning the study of the language.

While there are many subjects which are required to be taught in our schools and colleges, and the time may be almost fully occupied now, yet a little more care and attention to that branch of study by means of which we communicate our thoughts and ideas one to another will well repay every pupil in the public schools and every student at our colleges and universities. What will it profit a man if he has all knowledge yet is not able to express himself clearly and forcibly? He is like a valuable article encased deep in the earth where no man is able to reach it. It might be of great service to mankind if it were where it could be useful, but as it is its usefulness and the good which it does to mankind is of like measure.