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Editorial Notes.

FOR Question Drawer see next number. It was crowded out of this.

WE understand, from the Education Department, that a series of vertical writing copybooks, now in course of preparation, will be authorized about April next.

OWING to the shortness of the time since the new regulations were adopted, we understand that there will be no examination this year for the commercial diploma (Form II.). The examination in Form I. takes the place of the former commercial examination.

ACCORDING to press reports, considerably more than two thousand members of the University of Cambridge have signed a memorial praying for the admission of women to degrees in the University. Among the signatories are Arthur J. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury; Gerald Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland; Sir Walter Besant, the well-known author, and other notable men.

SOME candidates for the next Junior Leaving Examination who hold Primary certificates, and who purpose taking advantage of the special provisions allowed to the holders of certificates granted under the former Regulations, have erroneously

assumed that they are not required to pass any examination of Form II. It should be understood that all such Junior Leaving candidates must, in 1896, take the following subjects of Form II.: English Grammar and Rhetoric, Arithmetic and Mensuration, and History of Great Britain and Canada. This fact was fully shown in our issue of September 2nd, 1895.

AT the recent meeting of the North Hastings Teachers' Association the following resolution was passed: "That, in the opinion of the North Hastings Teachers' Association, the Board of Examiners for admission to High Schools and Collegiate Institutes should be composed as follows: (a) The headmaster of the High School or Collegiate Institute; (b) the Public School Inspector; (c) a representative of the Public School Board of Trustees, who shall be a Public School teacher actively engaged in teaching in a Public School; (d) a representative of the Separate School Board, who shall be a legally qualified Separate or Public School teacher actively engaged in teaching in a Public or Separate School."

WE are at a loss in determining what amount of space, if any, should be given in our columns to the work of the Fifth Class; that is, to the requirements of the Public School Leaving Examination. Some teachers of high standing, who are in a good position to know, have advised us that since, under the existing Regulations, the completion of this course does not entitle the pupil to advanced standing in the High School or Collegiate Institute, or, at least, does not admit him to Second Form, so few pupils will take the fifth year that it is not worth while to give much of THE JOURNAL'S limited space to the special work prescribed for this year. On the other hand, several teachers have written us, urgently requesting that this special work be fully covered by THE JOURNAL. Now, what are we to do in the matter? Will not all those subscribers who have pupils in

preparation for the Public School Leaving, and desire the help of THE JOURNAL in preparing them, kindly let us know immediately by postal card? This will help us very materially in reaching the right decision.

AMONG the various methods which are being tried in different places to counteract the disadvantages under which the children in sparsely settled rural districts are placed with regard to educational advantages, the "Concord Experiment," which has been tried for about four years in Massachusetts, U.S., deserves special consideration. This plan is simply that of doing away with the smaller local schools, and concentrating them in chosen localities. This is made possible by the simple expedient of providing for the comfortable conveyance of all the children within a radius of three and a half to four and half miles to the central school. This is done by means of large wagons, capable of seating comfortably eighteen to twenty-two pupils each. These wagons are so constructed that they may be covered and closed in when desirable, and comfortably warmed. The service is performed by contract, at about a dollar a day for each conveyance. The contractors are bound to make the service satisfactory, according to conditions carefully specified. The success of the experiment has been such that, under a permissive law passed about four years ago, one hundred and forty towns in the State are already availing themselves of the privilege. The result is that there is now, it is said, scarcely a small school in the state. The cost of education for the outside pupils has been reduced about forty-five per cent.; the average of attendance has been largely increased; fewer teachers are required to do the work; hence better salaries are paid, and better teachers employed. The pupils of outlying districts get the same advantages as those of the towns and villages. It is likely that something like this will be the method of the future, especially in new and sparsely settled districts.