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* Editorial Notes. *

TWELVE hours study a day. Six boys out of seven wearing spectacles. See recent speech of German Emperor. Draw your own moral.

IN this number will be found a syllabus of "The Tempest," by Mr. William Houston, M.A., which will, we have no doubt, be found very helpful to both teachers and pupils, in the study of the play. This syllabus has been prepared by Mr. Houston for use in connection with the large class he is conducting in the Y. M. C. A. building in this city, and is published at the special request of a number of teachers. Anticipating a large demand on the part of pupils as well as of teachers who may not be regular subscribers to the *Journal*, the Publishers have printed an extra large edition of this number. Single copies will be sent to any address at the rate of ten cents per copy.

THE acceptance of the High School Leaving Examinations in lieu of the pass and honor Matriculation Examinations, by the University of Toronto, marks another and an important step in the process of reducing the number and variety of examinations which used to be such an affliction to teachers, especially to High School Masters. As these leaving examinations were first suggested by the Principal of Queen's, there can be little doubt that that University will promptly adopt them. Trinity will probably follow suit, in its own interests. Victoria as a federated institution will of course follow the lead of the Provincial University. McMaster has from the commencement

adopted a system which virtually involves the acceptance of the High School examinations. Hence it will, no doubt, shortly be the case that any student who has completed the High School or Collegiate Institute course and passed its final examination will be able to enter any University in the Province without further examination. This is a simple and sensible arrangement. It can hurt no educational interest and will be a relief and a boon to all concerned.

WE have received a copy of the constitution and rules of the Canadian Botanists' Correspondence Association. These are very simple, containing nothing more than is necessary in order to carry on the work and further the ends of the Association. The purpose of the Association is sufficiently suggested by the name. It is, generally, the increase of botanical knowledge, the preservation and perpetuation of such plants as are of decorative or economic value, the education of the popular taste, the dissemination of valuable information, and so forth. Mr. John Dearness, I. P. S., London, Ont., is the chairman, and Mr. J. A. Morton, Barrister, Wingham, Ont., secretary of the Association. No doubt either of these gentlemen will gladly supply copies of the Constitution and Rules, and any fuller information desired to those who may be interested in the subject. The object of the Society is an excellent one. Its mode of operation seems simple and feasible. To teachers, of either sex, with botanical tastes and some elementary knowledge of the subject—and we hope there are many such—membership in this Association affords an excellent means of combining pleasant recreation with a useful and delightful study.

WHEN Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, was in Toronto a few weeks since he was waited upon by a deputation in which the Mayor and the city Inspector were included. The object of the deputation was to represent that there were in the Toronto public schools thirty-six companies of boys, who, it is claimed, are as well drilled as any of the volunteer regiments in Canada, and to request that these companies should be recognized by the Militia Department as

entitled to the usual Government grant for equipment and drill instruction. Sir Adolphe said in reply, in substance, that he approved of the idea, and would advocate it before the Government. Personally he would like to give the boys of Canada a Military Education, such as that given in the schools of France, Germany, Switzerland, etc. We need hardly say that we hope the people of Canada will never consent to any such system. We can conceive of nothing better adapted than this military training of school children to keep up the barbarous and crushing system of national armaments and to perpetuate the war-principles and war-practices for whose abolition all the nobler spirits of the race are hoping. We believe in plenty of gymnastics but no military drill for the children. We may return to this subject.

A GOOD deal of correspondence, some of it well-written, has been going on for some weeks past in the *Toronto Mail*, on the subject of Canadian pronunciation of English. Whether we Colonists murder the language more barbarously than our compeers in England—comparing those of like conditions and opportunities in each country—is a secondary matter and comparatively unimportant. The fact which is of great importance is that we do, most of us, torture it more or less in some or all of the ways described by Mrs. Burnz, a New York lady, in an address in the Normal School, Toronto, a few years ago. "Consonants are slurred, clipped, or swallowed; vowels are mixed or confused; words are understood almost wholly by context; a single word can rarely be understood without being repeated several times*** What we need is that every one shall recognize elementary sounds as separate identities capable of being uttered by themselves with ease and certainty." No one else can do one-tenth as much for the improvement of Canadian speech in the years to come as the teachers of to-day. Every teacher, of every grade, should make a special study of the subject, and should spare no pains in correcting according to the best standards, first his or her own pronunciation, then that of the pupils. Eternal vigilance is the price to be paid for correctness in speech. Nothing less will counteract the force of old habits and the ever present influence of bad example.