

\$34,732 from High School fees, and \$22,508 from jubilee school fees. Of the disbursements, \$151,685 were expended in maintaining the various schools, and \$22,400 went to pay the interest on bonds.

The *Oxford Magazine* publishes some interesting figures to show that the old universities are holding their own in supplying useful candidates for the various civil service examinations. Out of one hundred successful competitors for Home, Indian and Colonial posts, no fewer than eighty-six are Oxford and Cambridge men. Oxford is far ahead with fifty-seven, the light blues scoring twenty-nine

places. The second notable point proved by the statistics is the diminishing influence of the "crammers," who "seem to be settling down more and more into the position of supplements rather than of substitutes for ex-university training." Only two candidates out of the hundred remained for three or four years with the special trainer. It is also worthy of remark that the athletes are well to the fore, with three football "blues" and a long list of cricketers, footballers and oarsmen who have represented their colleges. The examiners have expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the average physical calibre of the successful candidates.

SCHOOL WORK.

SCHOOL-BOY BLUNDERS.

THERE are several ways in which the common blunder of a school-boy may be taken; several points of view from which it may be regarded. We have noticed of late a somewhat disquieting tendency on the part of certain periodicals to exploit this subject as a branch of literature. In such cases the writer (usually a school inspector or examiner) takes up, as a rule, a rather pharisaical position. He introduces his anecdotes to us with a covert sneer. He stands on a plane above and totally separate from that of the unfortunate culprit whom he holds up to ridicule. He is, in fact, a superior person, and he gives you to understand, by implication, that he himself could never at any time have perpetrated any of the solecisms he describes. We are quite prepared to believe him. To make a good, a really delightful blunder, certain qualities are necessary. It is not, as is commonly sup-

posed, your dull boy who perpetrates the truly comic reply. Now and again, led by some blind chance, he may possibly stumble upon a happy mistake, even as a dull man may be choicely sarcastic unawares. But to delight the hearer for all time with that blending of the audacious, the unfortunate, and the unexpected, requires little short of genius, and genius is a quality but rarely discoverable by school inspectors and their like. Good, worthy men, they despise what they cannot understand; they hold up to shame words they themselves would have never had the wit to utter.

Our standpoint, then, shall be a different one from this. We would approach the subject curiously, but sympathetically. Indeed, few processes are more interesting to trace than the working of the human mind towards the solution of any problem. How marvellous often is the ingenuity we see displayed! How indomitable the resource! Hampered as he is by