

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM CRITICISED.

Sir,—I herewith enclose a communication copied from a late number of the Montreal Daily Star, re Ontario's Educational system. Will you kindly give it space in your paper, inasmuch as the criticism of the Ontario system applies equally as well to our system in this province.

ONTARIO'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

Sir,—Would you kindly grant me space for a few words on the educational system of Ontario, at present an object of severe criticism by the leaders of the Provincial Opposition? I have had long experience of that system as teacher, examiner, and inspector; and I confess I am not one of its many worshippers. In my humble judgment it is not simply imperfect, it is radically wrong; hence its undoubted extraneous excellencies are largely nullified. It seems to rest on a misconception of what education really is.

This appears from the undoubted fact that its most salient characteristics is cram, the arch-antagonism of all true education. Let me confine myself to that section of education which falls under the head of the intellectual development. This limited, what does education mean? It means a calm, quiet unharried, but increasingly intensive development of the native mental powers. The school is a shop in which there are developed, strengthened, sharpened for the battle of life. The main business is not the acquisition of facts but it is the power of acquisition raised to its highest. And how is this revolution and invigoration of the faculties best secured? Not by the surcharging of one of them with heaps of undigested facts however useful; but by a judicious concentration of all on a few choice subjects best suited for developmental purposes; dipping ever deeper and deeper into the reason of things, thus thoroughly mastering each subject of study. The motto is: Non multa sed multum. Coolness, calmness, deliberateness combined with concentration in ever-increasing intensity, are indispensable to the development of the powers. The habit and the power of doing one's own thinking, are the very essence and backbone of a genuine intellectual education.

Now, I ask, is all this characteristic of the school work of Ontario? My experience answers, no. It is conspicuous by its absence. The work done is packing rather than development; parrotism, than originality. The memory is stuffed to the bursting point; the other faculties largely left dormant. No blame to the teacher. Here is a vast conglomerate programme of studies; yonder comes an examination. No time for development. No time for much self-reliant thinking, reasoning; this funder must be bolted, be the dyspepsia what it will. High pressure, fever heat, hot haste, distraction, dissipation of energy, disgust,—these words describe the system in operation. Results: professions, etc., crowded with mediocrities, and a marked dearth of intellectual greatness in the province. Examination a king, and cram his prime minister.

The focus of all energy is not mental stature, but the examination. To "pass," is the chief end of boy. Hence cram, no culture, is the great thing. The Public School crams for the High; the High for the University. The pupil is crammed; the teacher is crammed; the examiner is crammed; the curriculum is crammed; the High School is crammed; the professions are crammed; the cities are crammed; everywhere is cram, says on the farm.

Mediocrity and misery are the grist ground out by this mill, so little short of perfection. "Payment by results" is one of its pivotal principles, and such are the "results." A principle most pernicious. It sets a premium on work which strangles development in its cradle. In the name of education it makes education impossible.

"Results" What are the results? The numbers of "passers" So the "system" runners seem to think. The serious results are, deserted farms, congested cities, crowded professions, mediocrity, everywhere, greatness nowhere. When are the great men of Ontario? the intellectual giants? She had greater sons fifty years ago than she has to-day. What Sauti stands head and shoulders above his fellow? Neither Brown, nor McDonald, nor McGee, nor Cartwright, nor Mowat, was the product of this mind-paralyzing school system. Sir Wilfrid is not its product. The pulpitor orator hails from Erin; the Ruperts of debate, and the Chathams of statesmanship mostly from the shores of the loud-sounding sea, whence come the Howes, the Tilleyes, Tupperes and Fieldings. Ontario has been called the "great milk cow of the Dominion." Certainly the cream of intellect comes largely up from the sea? Sir John Thompson came thence; and when he died where was the great man left in his party, if not Foster, also from the sea? The Ontario school system guarantees mediocrity, or less than that. Smart little men it may give us galore; giants none.

Do we need them? Perhaps. At least a true system of education should evolve them. But it fails even in educating the

mass of the people for the ordinary business of life. I know as a fact that the worst letters that reach the land offices of Manitoba and the Territories, come from Ontario. What ninety-five per cent. of our school population need is a thorough mastery of the three R's. This they do not get. Their training instead of fitting them for ordinary life, points to the High School, whither most of them will never travel; and most of the rest ought not. The whole idea of using the public school to feed the High, and the High School to feed the University, is wrong. The public school should thoroughly prepare the mass of the people for life; and not concern itself in the least about higher ambitions. Indeed, none but nature's elect sons should seek professions; and these would be all the better for an uphill climb. Besides the place would then be worth climbing to. To day it is not; because the State is dumping so many blockheads there out of its gilded coach. Clear the track for the boy whose natural parts stand out high, and let him do the climbing. This principle would save wasted moneys and worse wasted lives, and bless the farm and the forum alike. In one word, the system, beautiful as a system, is hideous as a mind-crasher, whilst it costs as no other machine so equivocal ever yet cost in this dupiferous world.

Yours truly,
J. MAY.

GREAT VICTORIES.

Lake Trasimene, where Hannibal won a great victory over the Romans, is not far from Perugia.

Yorktown, where Cornwallis was hemmed in and compelled to capitulate, is ten miles from the mouth of the York river and 60 miles southeast of Richmond.

Dunkerque, where Turenne defeated Conde during the Regent's wars of France, is a seaport on the strait of Dover, the most northern town in France, 150 miles from Paris.

The Brandywine creek, on which a famous battle was fought during the Revolutionary war, rises in the northwest part of Chester county, Pa., and flows into the Christina creek at the city of Wilmington, Del.

Ninmegen, where the French were ultimately defeated and victorians during the war of 1794, is a town of the Netherlands, in the province of Guelderland, on the south bank of Waal, 83 miles from the sea and 17 miles northwest of Cleves.

The battle of Flodden was fought on the Tweed, near the Cheviot hills in Northumberland, eight miles south of Coldstream. It was this great victory of the English over the Scotch which gave Sir Walter Scott the subject of one of his finest poems.

Koniggratz, where the great battle of the Seven Weeks' war between the Austrians and Prussians was fought, is a town of Bohemia at the junction of the Adler and the upper Elbe, 65 miles northeast of Prague. This conflict is also known in history as the battle of Sadowa.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

FRANCO-RUSSIAN TREATY.

Russia's part of the game is at present a complete mystery. France—always emotional—comes out frankly with what she has in view. She wants assistance in her long cherished policy of revenge for the loss of Alsace-Lorraine.—Washington Star.

In the classifications of the world's governments France is recorded among the republics. Russia is the most autocratic government—the most perfect one man power—in Christendom. What sort of an alliance but for the oppression of mankind can be formed by these countries?—St. Louis Republic.

Russia's power is indeed so tremendous that the czar is able to flirt agreeably with either of the other strong powers of the continent and to compel the Kaiser, who is not believed to be of a long suffering temper, to brook the announcement that Russia has finally concluded to stick by France.—Chicago Record.

It is not necessary to go far afield in search of the impulses which have moved political opposites like the French republic and the Muscovite autocracy to enter into alliance with one another. Nor should it cause surprise that France has been the wooer, and that her jubilation over the consummation of her political marriage with the czarism should be intense to the verge of delirium.—Philadelphia Record.

FLOWER AND TREE.

Jerusalem's garden of olives has eight trees known to be 1,000 years old.

Ammonia has been proved to be an excellent stimulant for growing flowers. A few drops twice a week in a can of rain-water will make fuchsias, geraniums and other flowers bloom freely.

The adaptability of plants to new locations is sometimes very remarkable. Plants whose natural habitat is in dry soil can often acustom themselves to a marsh, while marsh plants on the other hand, can sometimes be trained to grow in dry sand.

Two young trees, raised from its acorns, have recently been planted near the famous old oak at Cowthorpe, England. The ancient tree, which is more than 50 feet in girth and is believed to be the largest oak in existence, is so decayed that it is feared it cannot stand much longer.

SOME REMEDIES.

For diphtheritic sore throat, a piece of camphor the size of a pea held in the mouth till dissolved.

For worms, an injection of a lump the size of a hazelnut of bitter aloes in one-half pint of hot milk.

For earache, five drops of chloroform on a little cotton in a clay pipe and the vapor blown into the ear.

For thrush, putting in a child's mouth two or three times a day equal parts of borax, saltpeter and loaf sugar, well powdered together.

For poison swallowed, a heaping teaspoonful each of salt and mustard in a half glass of cold water, followed by strong coffee or the whites of two raw eggs.—Ruth Hall in Good Housekeeping.

When Women Speak They Mean What They Say.

DIAMOND DYES THEIR FAVORITES.

Farmers wives and daughters are large consumers of Diamond Dyes. These thrifty and economizing women well know how new dresses, new costumes, and new suits can be made out of garments that have become faded and discolored. Farmers wives and daughters invariably make use of the Diamond Dyes because they are the strongest and most brilliant in color.

Mrs. John I. Sexsmith, of Roseberry, Man., who has been a user of Diamond Dyes for years, writes as follows:

"I am a farmer's wife and have used your Diamond Dyes for over ten years with most satisfactory results. I think they are unequalled for good colors and for their non-fading qualities."

The Horseless Age.



"George, dear, what are you doing?"
"Putting up this tire for good luck. I found it on the path this morning."—New York Sunday World.

Latherus and Diwees.

Recently a colored exhorter, enlarging on the impossibility of rich men getting into heaven, said: "Look at Latherus. When he wuz on de airth, he ax Diwees for de crumbs dat fall from his table. En what did Diwees do ter him? He call his dog Moreover on sick him on Latherus. Latherus put up a purty good fight, but de dog licked him. Den Diwees wuz so mad dat he took a fit en died, en when he wake up he fin' himself in hell fire, en he look troo de skylight en see Latherus en Father Abraham in a huggin' match, en he call ter Latherus ter turn on de water en he'd pay de bill. En what did Latherus say? He des lean over de banister en holler out: 'Go 'long, man, en shet yo' mouf. De water was cut off on de tenth. Milk en honey is de bes' I got.'"—Atlanta Constitution.

How It May Be Done.

"Do you have any trouble keeping your nursemaid?"
"None at all. At first we had to get a new one every week or two, but the one we have now has been with us for three months and is perfectly contented."
"How do you manage it?"
"Why, we have a pneumatic baby carriage with a bicycle attachment."—Chicago Post.



Even a brave man shudders at the thought of being torn and rended in the jaws of a ferocious tiger. In every walk of life, from that of the laborer to that of the professional man, there are thousands at the mercy of a tiger more relentless than any found in all India.

That tiger is the dread disease known as consumption. It slays more men and women yearly than there are rain drops in a summer shower. It steals upon its victim with noiseless tread.

There is a sure and certain protection against this deadly disease, and a sure and speedy cure for it, if it is resorted to in time. It is Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. This wonderful medicine acts directly on the lungs through the blood, tearing down old, half-dead tissues, building up new and healthy ones, driving out all impurities and disease germs and expanding the lungs; and introducing life-giving oxygen into the circulation. It has wonderful curative powers and allays all inflammation of the mucous membranes of the lungs and bronchial tubes. It makes the appetite keen and hearty, the digestion and assimilation perfect, the liver active, the blood pure and rich with the life-giving elements of the food, and the nerves strong and steady. It is the great blood-maker and flesh-builder. It has the most marvelous sustaining powers of any known medicine. Thousands who were upon the verge of a premature grave have testified to their recovery through its wonderful virtues. Medicines dealers sell it, and have nothing else "just as good."

When a dealer urges some substitute he's thinking of the larger profit he'll make—not of your welfare.

Dr. Pierce's book, "The Common Sense Medical Adviser," is a treasure in any family. It contains 1000 pages and 300 illustrations. A copy FREE to every person who will send to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y., 31 one-cent stamps, to pay cost of customs and mailing only. For cloth binding, send 50 stamps.

We call attention to our ad. on first page of bargain tables. It will pay you to read it. It will pay you to inspect these goods.—McKay Woolen Company.

Full of Fight.

Friend—Well, is your society as active as ever?
Prohibitionist—Yes indeed. We are preparing to carry the war into Kentucky.—New York Journal.

Honor.

A highly honored name he bore,
Although his crimes were rank.
He had the dust, and so his name
Was honored at the bank.
—Detroit News.

Meant Business and Got Her.

Miss Charmyng—Don't you think I was meant for a business woman?
Jack Hustler—No, I don't. I think you were meant for a business man.—Brooklyn Life.

Our Language.

Why is it called our mother tongue?
A henpecked man thus views it.
He thinks because the father gets
So little chance to use it.
—New York Journal.

A Halt.

"Funny that realistic drama had to be postponed. What was the matter?"
"As near as I could get the story the hen objected to the setting."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Plump.

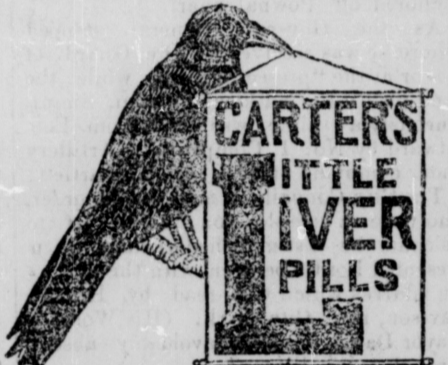
I'd fire thee, plump stenographer—
I'd fire thee quicker than the telling—
Wert thou but poor in all respects
As thou art at writing and at spelling.
—Detroit Journal.

The Secret.

When it comes to keeping a secret, the less said about it the better.—New York Sunday World.

No Gain.

The man who changes off his mind
By cruel fate is still undone,
For never, never does he find
By any chance a better one.
—Detroit News.



SICK HEADACHE

Positively cured by these Little Pills.

They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Whorty Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drunkenness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They Regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable.

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.

Substitution the fraud of the day.

See you get Carter's,

Ask for Carter's,

Insist and demand

Carter's Little Liver Pills.

British American.

Dyeing Co.

OF MONTREAL.

Are the Gold Medalist Dyers and Cleaners of Canada, and are prepared to do the following work—

Silk or wool dresses, opera cloaks, silk velvets, plush or cloth jackets, lined or trimmed with silk or fur beautifully cleaned. Gentlemen's overcoats, dress suits, tweed suits, military or other uniforms, church vestments, altar cloths, stage and professional dresses cleaned and color revived. Fur and fancy curtains, table covers, embroidered banners, screens, cushions, etc., cleaned with marvelous results. Fur coats, jackets, muffs, collarettes, etc., made like new. Feathers cleaned, dyed and curled. Goods done without removal of trimming, linings or ornaments, without danger of shrinkage or injury to color or fabric. Information with price list free on application to our agent for this province.

G. E. Henderson, Express Agent, Ch'town.

Sept 30—

Neuralgia

In the head is almost invariably caused by decayed and accessed teeth. Don't suffer needlessly when you can be relieved in a few hours and cured in a few days by the careful treatment we will give you.

J. H. AYERS

DENTIST.
Pain less extraction of teeth.

CHARLOTTETOWN

—TO—
BOSTON

Buy your tickets for Boston by the fast Steamer Halifax.

W. W. CLARK, Ticket Agent

"Famous" Baseburner

The Handsomest and Best Working Stove of this Class in America.

The construction of the flues gives it a greater heating capacity than any other.

Entire base radiates heat.

Made in two sizes, with and without oven. Oven is made with three flues same as a cooking stove. Double heater attachment by which heat can be carried to upper rooms. Beautifully nickled.

A Triumph of Art and Utility.

18 THE McGLARY MFG. CO., LONDON, MONTREAL, TORONTO, WINNIPEG, VANCOUVER.

If your local dealer does not handle our goods, write our nearest house.

LONDON HOUSE

NOW OPENING

LADIES' HATS

LADIES' JACKETS

T. J. HARRIS LONDON HOUSE,

English Manures

Landing to-day ex Steamer "Irene Morris," direct from Liverpool, E.S.

SUPERPHOSPHATES, NITRATE OF SODA, MURIATE OF POTASH, BONE MEAL, ETC.

All genuine, and of guaranteed analysis. The only reliable, best, and at least 20 per cent the cheapest fertilizer on the market.

AULD BROS.

The above shows the Myopia, or near-sighted eye, with and without correcting lens. The eye-ball is too long, and this condition greatly interferes with distant vision, and if neglected, may produce serious results. When attending the exhibition, make it a point to have your eyes examined FREE by

G. F. HUTCHESON, Optician & Jeweler

teen St., opp. J. D. McLeod

That's All Right, Sir

BUT—a great big BUT—we don't sell goods on credit but sell HARDWARE very cheap for cash at the

CITY - HARDWARE - STORE

...QUEEN STREET...

Call and see,.....

But Don't Ask For Credit.

R. B. NORTON & CO.
R. B. Norton, Manager.
J. F. Norton, Proprietor.

It will go... Right to the spot

Ayer's Hair Vigor will go right to that bald spot and begin to bring the hair back.

It Makes Hair Grow.