

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

FEBRUARY 14, 1898.

GRAMMING.

This subject was incidentally touched upon at the meeting of the Teachers, Institute, held on Saturday evening. We regret that it was not treated by the assembled teachers in the larger sense in which it has lately been discussed by Sir James Grant and the Superintendent of the Ontario Hospital for the Insane. In this sense, it is one of the most important and serious of practical matters affecting the future of our country. Education is for the drawing out and development of the natural powers; and "gramming" is education overdone. The results of overdoing, in this sense, are perhaps more noticeable in physical education than in intellectual education. By judicious training, a person's physical health and strength may be greatly improved. But if the trainer should place a too intense or too long continued strain upon the physical powers, and at the same time be careless concerning bodily nourishment, there follows, with absolute certainty, a failure to obtain desirable results, a weakening of the powers of the heart, or stomach, or nerves, an irreparable damage to the physical system, a breakdown, perhaps a collapse and death. We all recognize this fact. But many of those who are in authority over our schools seem to be totally blind to the fact that the higher, subtler and less tangible powers of the mind are just as susceptible of injury by over-training as the grosser powers of the body. What do we see, not in the public schools of this city and province alone, but of Canada at large? Boys and girls of twelve, thirteen and fourteen years of age—not all robust—set to study, as a means of educating and strengthening the powers of their minds, thirteen or fourteen different subjects, including, besides the ordinary English branches, French, Latin, Geometry, Algebra and Analysis. While the class-books used make a load for the ordinary school-going child to carry back and forth, the minds of the children are expected to grow and strengthen under a burden of studies the extent and variety of which are sufficient to pall full-grown men and women. Not in school alone but out of school the strain of study is applied; and not the teachers only but the parents exert their ability to constrain the youth of the age to "stick to it" in order that they may win a certificate at the end of the term and be able to grade into Prince of Wales College. Additional inducements are offered for the advertisement of catch-penny newspapers; and, after the studies of the day are over, the overburdened brain of our clever youth is expected to exercise itself in a study of world-wide current events. Is it not evident that, as the over-trained athlete cannot add strength to strength, so the school children subjected to a course such as the public schools of this country impose, cannot, except in rare cases, be educated in the true sense of the word?

It seems to us that one of two results—both at variance with the idea of drawing out and developing the powers of the mind—must follow such a multiplicity of studies as are pursued: First, thoroughness in the elements of knowledge, which is essential to ease in the acquirement of an education and a facility to perform the duties of life, cannot be attained; and secondly, there is likely to be impairment of the mental and physical ability of the people at large, together with not a few youthful wrecks. The fact that many of our pupils who have advanced to the study of the dead languages and geometry have lately been found unable to spell correctly ordinary English words in a composition upon current events is but one of many proofs of the first conclusion; and the fact that the attention of the most eminent physicians in the country, as well as of observant and thoughtful persons everywhere, has been attracted to the evil results of this "gramming," in the larger sense of the word, may be taken as a proof of the second. If these conclusions are right, our school authorities ought to return to simple and thorough educational methods.

A writer in Harper's Weekly reviewed with marked interest the situation in the Orient and the relative position of the greater European powers. It is pointed out that Germany's interference, while pretentious now, yet so far as the Orient is concerned, would be impotent in the event of war with Great Britain. A war in the Orient between Great Britain and any combination of European powers, including Germany, must large as far as the assertion of any power by Germany in the Orient, be a naval war. In such an encounter with a declaration of war or against Great Britain, Germany would cease to be a factor in Oriental politics. The German fleet may safely vend its way to China by begging British coal at British coal stations, but with war such supplies would cease. Coal is to a modern war vessel, as the breath of the nostrils to a body—very life.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Montreal Gazette's correspondent reports that the recent caucus of the Conservative party was one of the best which has been held for many years, and showed very conclusively that the stories circulated by the Government press of disagreement between the leader of his Opposition and his followers are a mere "device of the enemy" and entirely without foundation.

The Winnipeg Nor'Wester points out that enormous as are the grants of gold-bearing lands to Mackenzie and Mann for the construction of 140 miles of wheelbarrow railway, over a not very difficult track, and extensive and far-reaching as are the monopolies granted them, they are getting much more. It appears that the government, in order to shorten the distance of railway required, and to enable the contractors to use larger steamers has undertaken to dredge the Stickene river, at the Pacific end of the line, and the Hootalinqua and Yukon rivers, at the other end. The Nor'Wester says: "A despatch from Ottawa states that the government is now sending an expedition to improve the navigation of these three rivers. This is, of course, merely another way of providing traffic for the 130 miles of tramway, which has already been so enormously aided. What the improvements of these rivers will cost, we shall probably not know until the bill comes in. But if the improvements which extend over such a long stretch of waterway are to amount to anything at all, the cost of them will probably run up into the millions." The Halifax Herald remarks that the government is evidently determined that their Yukon policy shall make Mackenzie and Mann and their associates (whoever they may be) not only rich, but beyond the dreams of avarice. Like Tarie, nothing seems to be too good for them."

Montreal Star: The Minister of Railways does not know the probable cost of the Yukon Railway; he does not know if the government's engineers were ever asked about the value per acre of the land the government is giving away; he does not know how far it is to Taglish Lake (neither do we); he does not know whether there will be any difficulty with the United States Customs about making connections between his new railway and the Pacific Ocean; he does not know anything about the rights of Canada at Fort Wrangel; he does not know the position of the United States government with regard to allowing Canada to tranship at Fort Wrangel. But for all that, we notice that the Yukon Railway contract is made between Her Majesty the Queen, represented by the Honorable A. G. Blair, Minister of Railways and Canals, and the Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of Interior, of the one part, and Messrs. McKenzie & Mann of the other part. What a lot Mr. Sifton must know to make up for the colossal ignorance of Mr. Blair. The provisions of the Civil Service Act ought to be extended to Cabinet Ministers. Surely there would be no harm in a minister knowing as much as a third class clerk, or in having half as much guption. Some hard things are being said about this deal, but if all the ministers are as deplorably ignorant of the subject as the Minister of Railways confesses himself to be, the crime, if any, seems to belong to the same category as blowing out the gas.

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CAUSES OF BLINDNESS.

In response to a request of Mr. Fraser, Superintendent of the School of Blind, Dr. Dodge, of Halifax, has written a letter in which he says:

The records of the School for the Blind at Halifax, are in accord with the statistics of similar institutions in other countries where trouble has been taken to determine the causes of blindness. From these records it has been established beyond doubt that a very large number of these permanently blind became so in infancy. In the recent work on Diseases of the Eye, certainly the most exhaustive of any in the English language, the writer on the subject of blindness says: Ophthalmia neonatorum, that is purulent inflammation occurring in infants is, with the single exception of atrophy of the optic nerve, the most frequent cause of blindness. In four institutions for the blind in Great Britain 50 to 41 per cent. of the inmates owed their blindness of this cause. A British Royal Commission found that the blindness of 7,000 in the United Kingdom was due to infantile ophthalmia. Of the 50,568 blind persons in the United States in 1896, Dr. Barnett states that 30 per cent. owe their blindness to the same cause.

From the time of birth the clearness of the child's eyes should receive the most attention. This is the best preventive remedy known to the profession.

The eyes may be washed in a mild antiseptic, such as salt and water, or borax and water.

No cloths should be used to wipe the eyes, excepting those that are absolutely clean, and if used on one eye should never be used on the other.

The discharge that comes from purulent inflammation of the eye in these cases is contagious. In using the same cloth for both eyes there is a danger of carrying the disease from the eye first affected to the well one.

All cloths, after once being used, should be burned.

By the adoption of the preventive treatment here indicated the infant is almost sure to escape serious eye trouble.

Any parent or attendant can carry out the measures above suggested without the slightest risk to the eyes of the child, but I would recommend that whenever that disease makes its appearance a physician should be summoned without delay.

The disease, infantile ophthalmia, is first indicated by the redness of the eye or eyes, the swelling of the eyelids, and the discharge of matter.

In Germany this disease was formerly so prevalent in the lying in hospitals that 10 per cent. of the children became affected, but under a treatment in which cleanliness was the first consideration, the percentage of those affected by the disease was reduced to one half of one per cent., and in one of the largest hospitals finally disappeared altogether. These institutions were of course in charge of physicians and well-trained nurses.

Many of the cases of blindness in the Maritime Provinces result from infantile ophthalmia might have been prevented had the parents or attendants realized the gravity of the disease when it first made its appearance. In eleven States in the neighboring Republic the law makes it the duty of the nurse, the midwife, or the person in charge of an infant, to at once report all cases in which the eyes are in any way affected, and the failure to make this report promptly renders the nurse liable to a penalty. I trust that at the coming session of the Legislature of Nova Scotia our Provincial Act respecting infectious diseases may be amended so as to insure the reporting, and the early treatment, of all cases of infantile ophthalmia, and thus prevent unnecessary blindness.

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY.—Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. It is pleasant to the taste. Sold by druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Its value is incalculable. Be sure and ask for Mrs. Winslow's Footing Syrup, and take no other kind.

Jubilee Tea! Tea! Tea, a very fine Ceylon Blend in hand some enamelled tin, just a few left at Sanders & Co's.

A LADY'S IMPRESSION.

"Kit" writing from the gallery of the House of Commons remarks that Sir Charles Tupper is in great form. While not a humorous man, he is given to flashes of wit. His opening speech on Thursday night, while laughed at as being "childish and vindictive" by the Liberals, was certainly scathing in its denunciation of certain measures of the Government. It was, in fact, a marvellous speech for a man of 78 years to make. The old chieftain is full of vim and go, as vigorous and keen of mind as he has been any time this twenty years. As Sir Charles' speech progressed it was interesting to watch the attitude of certain members. Sir Wilfrid Laurier sat quietly in his chair, with his eyes fixed on his opponent, a bland smile every now and then spreading over his features. He made few notes, being apparently too intent upon the speech to care to disturb his attention by writing. Near him Sir Richard Cartwright sat with arms folded high upon his chest, and that satirical expression upon his features with which the cartoons have made us familiar. Now and again he bent his head, and addressed his views exclusively to his whiskers. One could see them vibrating with the intensity of the emotion wherewith he inspired them. Mr. Fielding, the handsome Minister of Finance was in evening dress. He sat very erect, and smiled frequently at Sir Charles' allusions to the tariff under "Liberal" management. He is a man of distinguished and even courtly appearance.

ESTEEMED EXCHANGES.

The Moncton Times: The liberals are carrying on the government of the country just now but it would appear from the parliamentary debates that the Conservative leaders have the most thorough knowledge of the questions that come up for consideration.

Montreal Gazette: Wednesday's interview between the prohibitionists and the Premier gave reason to think that the question of taxation will be mixed up with that of prohibition in the plebiscite ballot. As the plebiscite will not put a single prohibitionist in Parliament, it cannot do anything to practically advance a prohibition law. Under the circumstances the prohibitionists might have the ballot the way they want it.

The newest diplomatic project at Washington is to get a "pan-American convention" excluding Canada, to endorse the the Monroe doctrine. This much discussed doctrine has received a sort of half sanction from Great Britain, at whose suggestion, indeed, it is said to have been promulgated. But no other nation, in Europe or America, has accepted it, and it remains today what it was when President Monroe launched it, nothing more than the United States' conception of what is good for that country in connection with America's affairs. It is doubtful, also, whether it will ever be admitted as anything else. Exuberant U. S. writers in recent years have sought to give it a score not at first intended, and by it to elevate the United States to a sort of protector of the continent. Other free and independent republics may well hesitate to formally accept any such position.

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The undersigned having taken possession under a Bill of Sale, from the McKay Woolen Company to them of all the tweeds, readymade clothing goods and all general merchandise of the said Company contained in its store on the corner of Queen and Grafton Streets, in Charlottetown, and in the mill of the said company on the Malpeque Road, hereby give notice that they will receive sealed tenders for the purchase of the whole of the said goods and merchandise, up to Monday, twenty-eighth day of February, instant, at the hour of two o'clock, p. m. Lists of stock to be tendered for can be seen on application to Mr. Daniel Gordon, at the store of Messrs. Gordon & McLellan, Queen Street. The goods can be examined any day on application to Mr. Gordon.

Tenders marked "McKay Woolen Co. Tender," can be addressed and handed in or mailed to Mr. Daniel Gordon, Charlottetown. On the acceptance of any tender, cash for the full amount tendered will be required. The undersigned do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender. JAMES A. LEAMAN, ROBERT H. EDWARDS By W. S. Stewart, their Solicitor. Ch'town, Feb 14—

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FRIDAY, February 18th.

A Fancy Dress Carnival will be held in the

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Snowshoers, Firemen, Soldiers and Negroes will not be allowed on the ice. The managers reserve the right to debar objectionable costumes.

Prizes will be given for best character costumes, cost to be taken into consideration.

For gentlemen, \$5.00 For lady, 5.00 Special prize Maypole Soap Co, 5.00 " " Cake Walk—lady or gentleman, 5.00

Maypole Soap Company offer a special prize of Five Dollars for best costume for lady made from materials dyed with Maypole Soap. Not less than five colors to be used. The special prize for "Cake Walk" is to be awarded to the lady and gentleman who give the best impersonation of that specialty as given by Miss Williams and Mr. Tucker of the Miles Dramatic Co. here last summer. The Cake Walk March will be played by the band, at which time the contestants must appear together on the ice and remain during the rendering of the piece. No burnt cork to be used.

"Look out for Waffles" "TWO FOR FIVE"

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Doo's opens 7.15 p.m. Procession at 8 sharp. Grand gas illumination.

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PROGRAMME.

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ADMISSION 25c.

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OPERA HOUSE

Friday Ev'g, Feb. 18th

PROGRAMME.

- PART I. Opening Selection.Orchestra Statuary."Rock of Ages" 1. Fan Drill.Twelve Young Ladies 2. Vocal Solo.Mr. C. Roy Statuary."Winter" 3. Solo.Miss Eliza O'Neil 4. Recitation.Mr. T. A. McLeon 5. Song.Mr. E. Mitchell Statuary."Summer" 6. Skirt Dance. The Misses Helen Peters and Helen Warburton. 7. Vocal Solo.Miss Adele Sullivan Statuary."Faith, Hope and Charity"

- PART II. 1. Selection.Orchestra Statuary."City of Charlottetown sending her sons out into the world." 2. Vocal Solo.Miss Josie Smith 3. Recitation.Miss Lucy Lefurgey 4. Song.Mr. J. H. McDonald 5. Pantomime "Hiawatha".Miss Helen McDonald. Statuary."Klondike" 6. Vocal Solo.Miss Annie Hynman 7. Selection.Orchestra Statuary."Three Guardian Angels" 8. Quartet.Male voices 9. Song.Mr. Lamont Statuary."A portion of the World"

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN. Statuary under the supervision of Mr. Thomas May. Admission 50c. 35c and 25c. Doors open at half past seven. Concert commences at eight o'clock, sharp.

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