writer is of opinion that it would be better to take a less comprehensive course than to omit "graphical methods" entirely.

The best method for mechanics, as for all physical sciences, is—
(1) Experimental work to be carried out by the boys.
(2) Consideration of, discussion on, and deduction from the experimental data obtained by the boys, with an occasional demonstration by the teacher to clinch any particular point. This treatment of the experimental work to involve both analytical and graphical methods.

In fact, a truly educational course in mechanics is impossible without experimental work. Granted this experimental work, the writer is of opinion that the aim of the students will be considerably improved, and not only so, but there will be a complete absence of wild "shots."

Secondary and Technical School Clay Cross,
Chesterfield, May 15.

EUGENICS; ITS DEFINITION, SCOPE AND AIMS.

EUGENICS is the science which deals with all influences that improve and develop the inborn qualities of a race. But what is meant by improvement? We must leave morals as far as possible out of the discussion on account of the almost hopeless difficulties they raise as to whether a character as a whole is good or bad. The essentials of eugenics may, however, be easily defined. All would agree that it was better to be healthy than sick, vigorous than weak, well fitted than ill fitted for their part in life. In short, that it was better to be good rather than bad specimens of their kind, whatever that kind might be. There are a vast number of conflicting ideals, of alternative characters, of incompatible civilisations, which are wanted to give fulness and interest to life. The aim of eugenics is to represent each class or sect by its best specimens, causing them to contribute more than their proportion to the next generation; that done, to leave them to work out their common civilisation in their own way.

The course of procedure that lies within the functions of a learned and active society would be somewhat as follows:

(1) Dissemination of a knowledge of the laws of heredity so far as they are surely known, and promotion of their further study. Few seem to be aware how greatly the knowledge of what may be termed the actuarial side of heredity has advanced in recent years.

The average closeness of kinship in each degree now admits of exact definition and of being treated mathematically, like birth- and death-rates, and the other topics with which actuaries are concerned.

(2) Historical inquiry into the rates with which the various classes of society (classified according to civic usefulness) have contributed to the population at various times, in ancient and modern nations. There is strong reason for believing that national rise and decline are closely connected with this influence.

(3) Systematic collection of facts showing the circumstances in which large and thriving families have most frequently originated; in other words, the conditions of eugenics, on which much more information is wanted than is now to be had. It would be a great burden to a society, including many members who have eugenics at heart, to initiate and to preserve a large collection of such records for the use of statistical students. The committee charged with the task would have to consider very carefully the form of their circular

1 Abridged from a note read before the Sociological Society on May 15 by Dr. Francis Galton, F.R.S.

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