

edge can be readily and clearly communicated, may indeed be indispensable, and this may be ascertained by examination. But to judge of the general ability of a candidate, of his fidelity, his adaptation to a given position, the probability of his growth, his skill as a "re-searcher," his originality of mind, his perseverance, other tests must be employed than those of an examination-paper. Good judgment, based upon a knowledge of human nature, must be called in.

The advantage of allowing teachers to be the examiners of their classes is obvious: they know what has been taught, and how, and they can say what the scholar ought to remember. At the same time, the advantage of calling in examiners who have not taught the class is also obvious. Pupils are thus reminded that they are expected to know a subject, not a certain part of a text-book. For example: they are to know how to read Cicero, and not to present six orations; they are to read German books, not to say that they have read "Marie Stuart;" they are to know their algebra, their physics, their chemistry, botany, and so on. Probably for the best pedagogical discipline, the board of examiners should be made up partly of the actual teachers of a class, partly of competent, sensible outsiders.

While there is reason to believe that the lower schools of the country suffer from too many or too poor examinations, I doubt whether the colleges rely too much upon their examinations. Some instructors have but vague ideas of the purpose of examinations, and consequently may employ imperfect methods of examining. Examiners are as likely to be at fault as examinations.

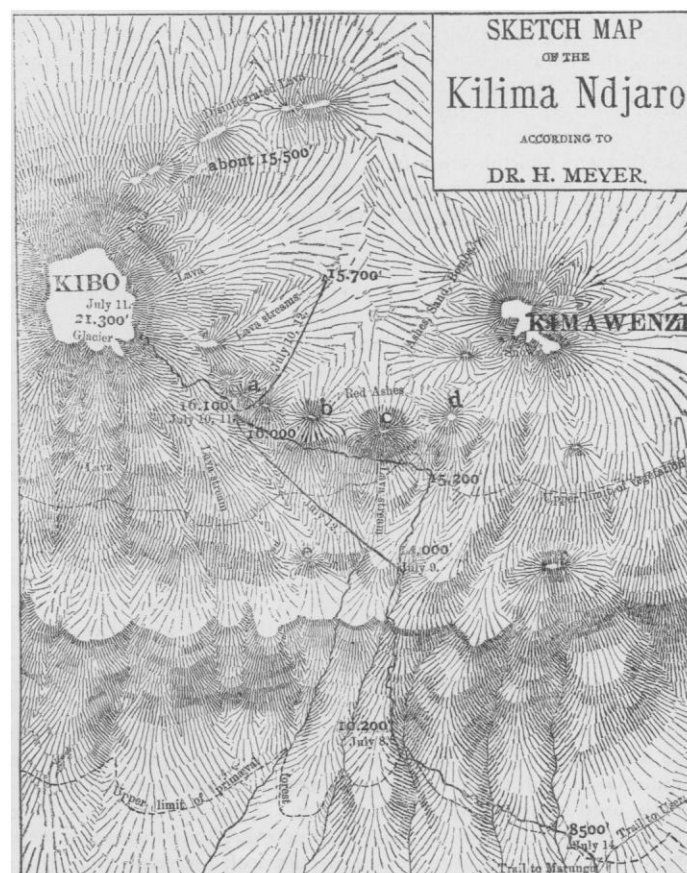
It would surely be well for every board of examiners to consider what object they have in view; e.g., is the object to ascertain whether the class as a whole has been well taught? The authorities of a school or college sometimes require this information, and of course an examiner who is not the teacher must be enlisted. Is the object to select those who are most deserving of an honor or prize? If so, sharp test-questions are requisite. Is it to ascertain whether a scholar is capable of going forward with a proposed course of study? If so, a fair, general paper, supplemented if possible by oral questioning, is desirable. Is it to grade a class? Then there should be a paper which every one ought to be able to answer, so as to pass, but with riders, so that the superior scholars may show their attainments, and win the rank which is their due. The highest talents will thus be drawn out, while inferior ability will not be discouraged.

But the subject is quite too complex for a brief discussion, and I fear that I have already filled the space that you offer me.

ASCENT OF THE KILIMA NDJARO.

MR OTTO F. EHLERS made an interesting ascent of the Kilima Ndjaro in company with Dr. Abbott, an American naturalist who had been collecting for upwards of a year in the country round Tavita. The "Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society" gives the following sketch of this ascent: The travellers left Marangu with a party of thirty men. The first camp was pitched at the foot of a small crater almost due south of the eastern peak, Kimawenzi, at an altitude of about 9,800 feet. On the following day Herr Ehlers made an excursion to Kimawenzi, and reached a height of about 16,400 feet; any further ascent of this remarkable jagged mountain seemed to him impossible. The same day the travellers saw three specimens of a new species of antelope. The two following days were spent in collecting plants and searching for a suitable camping-place, where the majority of native followers might remain, while the travellers proceeded up the mountain. A spot was chosen to the west of their last camping-ground, at an altitude of about 10,500 feet. From here the two travellers started with five men, and provisions for four days, taking a northerly direction up the saddle between Kibo and Kimawenzi. After some hours' marching, they discovered that they had made the same mistake Dr. Meyer had in 1887, and were proceeding in a direct line to the summit of the lower eastern peak. Being at this moment overtaken by a snow-storm, they pitched their camp at an altitude of about 15,500 feet. On the following morning, which broke bright and clear, they set out in a westerly direction over the

newly fallen snow, proceeding along the northern edge of the line of lava hills mentioned by Dr. Meyer, whose route lay along their southern side. After much toilsome marching, snow having commenced to fall again, the natives were compelled to return, leaving the two travellers to push on to their last camping-ground (Nov. 17). The morning of the 18th was exceptionally clear, and an early start was made over the hard-frozen snow. At seven o'clock they found themselves at an altitude of 16,200 feet, about the middle of the eastern side of the summit. Instead of attempting to ascend from this side, as Dr. Meyer had done, they proceeded in a north-westerly direction over lava-streams and rocky boulders to the northern side of Kibo. Unfortunately, at this point Dr. Abbott completely broke down, and Herr Ehlers pushed on alone. Keeping to the east of a mighty lava-stream, he pushed his way over sand, ashes, and rubble, covered with the freshly fallen snow, and after repeated halts, but without suffering at all from the rarity of



the atmosphere, he arrived at 10 o'clock at the ice-wall which completely encircles the actual summit, and the scaling of which at this point was impossible. He consequently proceeded along this wall of ice for some distance, in the hope of finding a point at which it could be surmounted, but after a time was compelled to retrace his steps, owing to a steep fall in the ground. Descending the summit a little, he contrived, by much toilsome climbing, to get round to the north-east side of the summit; and here, from a point of some little elevation, he obtained a comparatively wide view over the summit. He could discover nothing in the form of a crater: the mass of snow and ice lay before him in a succession of gentle undulations. This is somewhat remarkable, in view of Dr. Meyer's account of the crater of the summit. He does not give the exact height attained, as he prefers to wait until the instruments used have been tested, but states that it exceeds 19,600 feet. The descent was made by a somewhat different route, in a direct course to the south-east. At an altitude of 16,400 feet the track of an elephant was observed in the snow, also those of buffaloes and antelopes. Here also he found the last traces of vegetation. The return to Marangu occupied three days.