

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS.

Switzerland does not stand alone in Europe in having an almost complete ladder of education for all its citizens. Several of the States of Germany have reached a similar position; the system of Wuerttemberg, for instance, is particularly well organized; but it is scarcely so comprehensive or so well balanced as the Swiss system, the tendency being to make better provision for technical and trade education than is made for the general education of the average citizen. I fancy, too, that the higher grades are not so open to all as they are in Switzerland or in New Zealand; this is certainly the case as we go north in Germany—in Prussia, for example—despite the excellence of most of the methods of teaching and the ample provision made for continuing instruction beyond the years that we count as the proper school age.

The extension of the school age is one of the lessons we have to learn from Europe; all progressive countries are practically agreed in this: the education of the citizen must not cease at the age of thirteen, fourteen, or fifteen, when his mind is still unformed, but must be carried on into the