

late the teacher and pupils to extra effort; they afford opportunity, in fact make the necessity, for house-cleaning. If the teacher says to the trustees, "I propose to have an examination in ten days, and the school-house is in need of cleaning," the trustees readily carry out the teacher's request to put the school in presentable condition, and in general trustees are stimulated to keep the school-house and yard in better repair when they know that semi-annual gatherings of the parents will be held in the school.

Even if the people of the section do not attend the closing exercises, they feel more confidence in the teacher for the invitation to come to the school.

In order to make the examination a success, it is necessary to ask the co-operation of the pupils, and to excite their energies so that the parents may be led to participate in the interest their children manifest. It is well to spend about a week in the preparation in reviewing the work of the past three or four months. Perhaps some will say there should not be any preparation. Although with this I cannot agree, yet I strongly object to a teacher's drilling over a few points for a month or so for exhibition on "examination day."

The school-house as well as the pupils need preparation. My practice has been to have the pupils *alone* occupy the pupils' desks, and as there are not generally enough seats to accommodate visitors, some will have to be prepared. If benches can be borrowed, borrow them. I have borrowed unplanned boards, pasted newspapers over them, and placed them on benches and chairs all round the room, thereby securing temporary seats with no cost and but little trouble. I do not find any difficulty in keeping the visitors out of the pupils' seats. I simply say to the pupils the night before that I wish them to tell their parents, brothers and sisters who intended coming to the examination that I would rather not have them sit in the children's seats, and that I would give them seats by themselves. If you allow pupils and visitors to sit together it will be impossible to have perfect order

and attention, but if the pupils are alone they will keep quiet, and the visitors will quickly understand that they are expected to do the same. On the arrival of visitors I think the teacher should meet and welcome them at the door, then conduct them to a seat where he can leave them to listen to the examination of the various classes. The programme of exercises should be varied so as to interest the visitors and not weary the pupils. An intermingling of classes with a few choice recitations and songs by the pupils is desirable. The variety will rest and enliven the pupils, and will make your visitors feel it a pleasure to come to your examination.

One great trouble teachers have is in getting the parents to attend the examination. It is not very encouraging to announce your intention of having an examination, and when the day comes have it all to yourself. I have seen examinations where even the trustees were not present, and only one or two others graced the occasion with their presence. In Telfer we have never had fewer present than between 100 and 150 people, besides the pupils. To get them to attend, I send a written invitation to each family in the section. The more interest the teacher takes in their coming the more they will have in attending. If they find the teacher takes the trouble of sending a note of invitation to them, they will certainly feel that they are wanted; and in almost every instance you will find them present, unless prevented by unavoidable cause. In our section nearly all look upon examination day as a public holiday.

After advancing numerous reasons for holding public examinations in rural schools twice—and but twice—in the year, viz.: just before the falling off of the summer attendance, say early in November, and before the winter scholars leave, say late in March, Miss Langford devoted the remainder of her address to its most important topic—the advantages of a programme of exercises. At the Telfer examinations the neighbouring teachers who have promised to assist know the subjects assigned to them or selected by