

The condition of the buildings may again be reported as having all but reached the maximum. No general interest can now suffer from my changing the order of my report in this respect, and therefore, instead of naming the schools that are to be commended for improved buildings, I may simply enumerate the few that have not received the maximum mark this year. These are Knowlton, Lennoxville, Leeds, St. Lambert, Kinnear's Mills, Bolton Centre and Bryson.

The improvement in the matter of caretaking continues, and next year I shall be prepared to name the schools in which the full amount of attention is not given to this matter, just as I have mentioned the schools in which building improvements are still to be looked for. The apparatus is very materially being added to in all our schools, and the expenditure of the "equipment grants" should be continued to be expended for its increase for some years yet. The words of last year's report can bear to be repeated in this connection. "Our schools are beginning to assume that appearance of tidiness and comfort which makes them pleasant places for children. With a set of maps hanging on the painted or papered walls, with well-kept furniture, and a plentiful supply of black-board, with globe and dictionary in the vicinity of the teacher's spacious desk, with the beginnings of a library in a neat book-case on the one side, and the nucleus of a museum collection on the other, with charts for oral lessons in physiology, physics and botany at hand, many of our schools present a picture which is very pleasant to the eye of the inspector, and I trust that the time is not far distant when all our superior schools will be in a position to boast of such school comforts and appliances."

The attention which the Commissioners have given to improving their school grounds in years past will give all the readier *eclat* to the competition about to be inaugurated by the Committee. In connection with this there must eventually come to be an improved closet drainage, before we can consider the outer environment anything like complete. Meantime, however, the Commissioners, as far as I can learn, are all anxious to enter upon the competition for improved grounds, whatever may be the ultimate regulations with reference to them and their attached out-houses.

The condition of the written examination papers has on the whole been declared satisfactory, the teachers evidently being determined to show that while some of their pupils may fail to answer a question or two set in an examination paper, there is no necessity for them to answer what they can answer in a slovenly