

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Lectures before the Library Association of Sherbrooke.

—The lecture on Tuesday was delivered by the Hon. J. S. Sanborn; Subject—Education in and out of School. The speaker defined education to be a development of the faculties of mind and body to fit the persons for the highest condition of usefulness. He alluded to the education of youth among the ancient Pagan nations, and contrasted it with education under the influence of Christianity. Education in Christian countries is based upon Christian morality. The objects of aspiration among Pagan nations were often totally at variance with the maxims of Christian morality, and as a consequence one essential element on the highest culture is with them wanting, the cherishing of good dispositions in the heart.

All Christian nations make some provision for the general education of youth. The object of common schools is to lay the foundation by teaching those branches which underlie the whole fabric. Reading is the first necessity. Without this attainment a man must forever be deprived of all knowledge not derived from personal observation and experience. The knowledge of what has been done, and what is transpiring in the world at large, must in a great measure be shut out from his vision.—The object of writing is to render a person capable of conveying his own ideas to others, and thus extend his influence and usefulness. Arithmetic renders one fit to protect himself from imposition, fits him to transact business, and is an element of great power in all the practical concerns of life. All the calculations of higher mathematics of the most abstruse nature are performed by the four simple rules of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Spelling was important, to secure uniformity. It is not of so much importance how a word is spelled, if every body spells it in the same manner, who uses the same language. This could only be attained by adopting a uniform rule. People sometimes adopted a phonographic style of spelling, which looked very curious to persons having respect for the genuine vernacular.

The mastery of the elementary branches, which could be attained in the common schools, laid a foundation upon which a person could build to any extent he might choose. The road to knowledge was open to all and if there were sufficient resolution and industry, there was no limit to the attainments that might be made, unaided by the schools, beyond laying this ground work. There was no need of jesting any one else; acquiring knowledge impoverishing no one. In this respect it was unlike acquiring wealth or honors of offices.

The object of the higher schools and universities was to give facility for enlarged attainments in the arts, science and general literature. Most persons required the stimulus of regular study, the conflict with other minds, the aid and sympathy of experienced teachers to make great attainments. It was only a few who would persistently educate themselves without these aids. The study of the dead languages was a means of enriching the mind with those languages from which modern languages are largely derived. It affords also excellent discipline, as it required long and patient application.

Outside of the schools many means of self education were open to all. First, instruction derived from the Sacred Scriptures and the pulpit. Instruction from the press, standard works, travels, history and novels, if persons had not patience to abide by facts which are often stranger and certainly more improving than fiction; the newspaper press filled with passing events, maxims, politics, opinions of all kinds from the shallow to the profound,—none could ignore the newspaper and periodical press at this age without becoming more or less fossil.

The study of the theory of agriculture, chemistry as applicable to it, the nature of soils, properties of manufactures, the laws of breeding as applied to farm stock and the like manufactures, inventions, and how discoveries affect practical mechanics, various anecdotes of an interesting character, were related to show the progress of inventions and improvements in machinery.

Commerce was alluded to as instructing nations and individuals. The exchange of products of different countries, the discovery of gold peopling California and Australia. Commerce acted as a civilizer and educator, and commercial men were imbued thereby with liberal ideas, narrow views and sectional prejudices removed.

The lecture was generally entertaining and instructive.—*Sherbrooke Gazette of Feb. 8th.*

Prizes awarded for essays on Education.—At the annual meeting of the St. Francis District Teachers' Association, held at Stanstead Plain on the 26th and 27th of December, the prizes given by J. H. Pope, Esq., M. P., for the best essays on "Religious Instruction in Public Schools" were awarded as follows.—1st prize, Mrs. Rugg, Compton; 2nd prize, Miss Maggie M. Bothwell, Durham; 3rd prize, Miss Lucretia Lovjoy, Barnston; 4th prize, Miss Anna McLean, Lingwick.

An additional prize, given by the chairman of the Association, was awarded to Mlle. Elise Larivière of Weedon, for an essay on the French Language.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

HEALTH OF THE LARGE ENGLISH TOWNS.—In the week ending Saturday, February 8, 4,209 births and 2,546 deaths were registered eleven large cities and boroughs of England, including London. The mean temperature of the past two weeks has considerably exceeded the average temperature in the corresponding weeks of the past fifty years, this has resulted in a marked decrease in the fatality of inflammatory diseases of the respiratory organs. The deaths last week showed a further decrease of 62 upon those returned in recent week. The mortality from zymotic diseases has also declined, especially in Manchester and Liverpool. In Hull prevailed during last week the lowest annual rate of mortality, 20·2 per 1,000 persons living. The rates in the other towns, ranged in order from the lowest, were as follows:—Birmingham, 20·6; Leeds, 20·7; London, 23·3; Sheffield, 24·5; Salford, 25·8; Bradford, 26·1; Bristol, 28·0; Manchester, 28·6; Liverpool, 29·4; and the highest rate during the week, 33·9, in the borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The eightieth anniversary of the first settlement of British Colonists in Australia was celebrated by a public dinner in London on the 25th ult. Two members of the Government were present, one of whom, Mr. Corry, M.P., the First Lord of the Admiralty, responded for the navy, and said that he was delighted to find that the Australian colonies were ready to contribute to their own defence, and not throw the expense of that on the mother country. The Admiralty had presented the colony of Victoria with a guardship; and Mr. Corry had put into the naval estimates for the current year an item of £50,000 for the completion of an iron-clad for the same colony. The loyalty of Australia, as evinced in the enthusiastic reception of the Duke of Edinburgh, was referred to with no small amount of satisfaction.

NECROLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE.

—Many old residents of Montreal, and a large circle of personal friends, will learn with sincere regret of the death of Dr. Archibald Hall, which took place on the 14th ult., in the fifty-sixth year of his age. Dr. Hall attained to a very eminent position in the profession to which he belonged, and which, in his native city, conferred upon him the highest honors within its control. His kindly disposition rendered him a most agreeable friend, and his extensive scientific knowledge caused him to be much sought after as a medical instructor and adviser.

As a collateral branch of medical study, Dr. Hall was much devoted to the study of the natural sciences, and especially attached himself to Botany, Zoology, and Meteorology. Bringing with him from Edinburgh a fine collection of the plants indigenous to the neighborhood of that city, he began soon after his return an herbarium of the plants growing about Montreal, and sent home to his *Alma Mater* in the course of a few years, a very large and carefully preserved collection. Zoology appears to have been his chief delight, as we find him presented with the silver medal of the Natural History Society, of Montreal, as the successful competitor for the prize offered by that society for the best essay on the "Zoology of the district of Montreal." This manuscript essay, after lying in the closets of the Society for nearly twenty-five years, was finally printed in the pages of the *Canadian Naturalist*, the publication occupying a considerable portion of the numbers of that valuable journal for several years. In 1863, he was called upon to share with the late Dr. A. F. Holmes, his Professorship in the McGill University. He accordingly lectured that winter upon *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics. Upon the death of his old preceptor, Dr. Robertson, and the consequent change of Professorships, Dr. Hall was called to fill the clinical chair, which he continued to do until the decease of the late Dr. McCulloch in 1854, when he was unanimously called upon by his colleagues to discharge the duties of the chair of Obstetrics, previously held by that esteemed gentleman. Attached to this chair, is the University Lying-in-Hospital under the control of the Professor serving to illustrate the precepts, taught in the class-room. As a medical writer, Dr. Hall is best known as the writer of the *British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science*, Montreal, which he established in April, 1845, and conducted with great credit and ability from that time until its suspension in 1852, and again, from 1860, until it finally expired two years afterwards. Dr. Hall was also the author of *Letters on Medical Education* addressed to the members of the Provincial Legislature of Canada, published in Montreal in 1842; *Letters on the Medical Faculty of McGill College*, 1845; and a Biographical sketch of the late A. F. Holmes, M. D., LL. D., including a history of the Medical Department of McGill College, 1860.—*Herald.*

We might have added to our obituary notice of Dr. Hall, that the London Obstetrical Society, representing the most eminent talent in this branch of medicine, recently sent to him, to request his photograph, and a memorandum of parts of his life, for the purpose of being put in an illustrated volume of eminent men in this branch. It is an unusual compliment to be paid to a colonist.—*Gazette.*