

*Special Papers.*

## SCIENTIFIC TEMPERANCE TEACHING.

BY HENRY A. FORD, A.M.

THE new laws for teaching in the public schools the effects of stimulants and narcotics upon the human system, open the most hopeful future for true and enduring reform of any steps or measures ever taken. They now prevail in no less than thirty-three states and territories of the American Union, including by Act of Congress all of the latter, as also the District of Columbia and every other spot directly dominated by the General Government. At least two-thirds of the children in the public schools of the United States by legislative enactment must thus be taught a physiology and hygiene of the highest order of importance. In some states the prescription is to teach "all the pupils in every school." In a number of our commonwealths pains and penalties are provided, imposed upon either the school district or the Board of Education, for neglect to observe the Act. In Pennsylvania, and I think a few other states, the offending district is deprived of its share of the public money.

These laws are expected to supply the "ounce of prevention." I do not forget the wide difference in average humanity between knowing and doing, nor that considerations are often addressed to the intellect that never reach the moral nature. Large numbers of the school-children—some from hereditary alcoholism, others under stress of temptation—will still become drunkards in later life, however carefully trained in formulas of words and the facts of scientific temperance. But many will be saved. They will have digested and assimilated the information received, and transmuted it into moral force and regulative principle; or at the moment of the tempter's approach they will recall the warning facts in memory or bring into the field of consciousness the terrible object lessons received from chart or experiment, and by them will be guarded and preserved.

And now the experiment of this law is being tried in the Province of Ontario. I need not argue before the constituency of the EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL its importance, nor the vital necessity of such instruction to the highest interests of the body-politic. So far as I can judge, from the reception of this theme at the several institutes and popular assemblies to which I have had the honor to present it, there is a very general feeling among the teachers of Ontario in support of the law, and among the people in support of the teachers as they proceed to its execution. Associated in no way necessarily with Scott Act or third-partyism, with any form of legislative regulation of the liquor traffic or combined effort for the redemption of the intemperate, it makes direct and pure appeal to the common sense, the philanthropy, the plain duty of the public instructor. That appeal, I am sure, will scarcely be heard in vain in any nook or corner of the great Province.

It is gratifying to notice that the Department of Education has been prompt and intelligent to move in the prescription of this branch in the school courses, and in the approval of an adequate textbook. The compact little volume of "Lessons on Alcohol, and its action on the body," by the very eminent Dr. Richardson, perhaps the highest authority in the world on alcohol and its involvements, seems to me incomparably the best, for its size and price, that I have seen. Somewhat numerous as my own collections of the related literature are, I have nothing in like compass that I prize above this. Coming into my possession but a month ago, it has already been of material service in the revision of my lectures, and I intend to use it more in detail in preparation for a California campaign next summer in behalf of the enforcement of the law, following the great educational meetings in San Francisco. Teachers will find it everywhere on the advanced line of chemical and physiological science, and of practical temperance reform.

Many teachers, however, must teach partly without book, even with classes using the "Lessons," and altogether in general exercises with the school or oral work with a division of it. I trust that for such instructors a supplementary little work may be prepared, of experiments and text for object-

lessons, or that the JOURNAL may secure a series of brief papers to the same end. Meanwhile any chemist or physician can suggest a few simple but effective experiments for classwork. The sad effects of alcohol upon the albumen which mainly constitutes the brain—and so by consequence upon the mental and moral nature—can be easily and inexpensively shown by beating the white of an egg with a small portion of alcohol, making successive additions as the material becomes ropy, then curd-like, and finally solid. The volatile character of alcohol, the chilling results of alcoholic elimination through the skin, and so the otherwise demonstrated fact that a drunkard freezes to death much quicker than an abstinent man, may be impressively exhibited by dipping the finger repeatedly in the fluid and letting it dry in the air, growing colder each time. The drying and antiseptic qualities of the old enemy, rapidly abstracting water and holding food unchanged in the stomach until the fiery element has passed away, instead of proving an aid to digestion, as many hold, is made patent from the immersion for a few hours in alcohol of a bit of fresh beefsteak, or any animal or vegetable tissue; and if desirable the interesting relation of this phenomenon to the preservation of curiosities in cabinets and museums may here be indicated. A little book or two of such experiments have already appeared in this country, which—or skillfully adapted reprints of them, as in the case of the Richardson book—may early find their way into the provincial work, pending the final preparation of something better.

DETROIT, MICH., April 28th, 1888.

*Educational Meetings.*

## WILMOT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE following is a report of the proceedings of the Wilmot Teachers' Association, held at Baden, the 28th of April.

Mr. W. R. Wilkinson gave some very good suggestions on uniform promotion examinations. This subject was well discussed by the association.

Moved by Mr. W. R. Wilkinson, seconded by Mr. W. Linton, that in the opinion of this association a system of uniform promotion examinations in the public schools throughout the province, to all classes higher than the second, would be in the interests of education. Carried.

Public school temperance was briefly discussed by the Association.

Mr. C. G. Fraser presented a series of drill exercises in primary arithmetic. His method was very much appreciated.

English literature was then discussed by Mr. W. Linton, who described a very good method of teaching it. He also dictated a set of selected questions on Entrance Literature, which were admired by all.

## SOUTH SIMCOE TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

THE annual meeting of the South Simcoe Teachers' Institute was held in Alliston public school on Thursday and Friday, 12th and 13th April. Owing to some failure in the arrangements the programme was not as full as it generally is at these conventions.

The president, Rev. Thos. McKee opened the convention with a few words of counsel and encouragement to the teachers, to whom his words are always welcome.

Rev. Mr. Burnett, of Alliston, on behalf of the citizens, welcomed the teachers most cordially.

Dr. McLellan addressed the teachers on "The Training Faculties." His address was one of the most practical and instructive ever delivered to the teachers of South Simcoe.

In the evening a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, presided over by Mr. Hood. A choice programme of songs, recitations, and instrumental music was provided; but the treat of the evening was Dr. McLellan's address to "Parents and Teachers."

On Friday (second day), Inspector McKee and Mr. W. F. Moore (Cookstown), gave a report of the meeting of the Provincial Association, to which they were delegates.

Mr. McPherson (Beeton), gave an excellent paper on "Drawing," with particular reference to "perspective."

The following officers were elected:—President, Rev. Thos. McKee (re-elected by acclamation); vice-pres., Dr. Forrest, principal Bradford high school; secretary-treasurer, Geo. E. Scroggie, Ivy public school. Committee: Messrs. Whitebread (Allandale), Gilbert B. Wilson (Thornton), George Wilson (Lisle), George Sutherland, Dr. J. Dunn, and Misses Wanless and Morrow. Delegates to the Provincial Association, Messrs. McKee and Hoath (Alliston).

## SOUTH YORK TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The Teachers' Institute of South York met Thursday morning in Parkdale Model School. Inspector Fotheringham in the chair. Messrs. Hand, Wismer, Rutherford and Jewett were appointed a committee on Nominations. Mr. Steele, of Parkdale Model School, gave a short paper on "Introduction to Latitude and Longitude in Geography," and one on "Letter writing" was given by Mr. R. Cowling, Woodbridge. Lively discussions followed the reading of these papers.

In the afternoon at the South York Teachers' Institute Mr. Wm. Douglas, of Milnesville, illustrated his method of teaching writing. He would teach the elementary principles first, give the time to the class by counting and requiring rapid execution from the first. Mr. J. J. Tilley, director of teachers' institutes, then gave a model introductory lesson in technical grammar to a junior second book class. He referred to former incorrect methods of teaching the subject, and instanced a good illustration of a more logical method. His paper was well received and he was accorded a cordial vote of thanks.

Mr. W. A. Hicks, of Parkdale, introduced the question of establishing a teachers' professional library in South York. He stated some of the causes of failure to maintain libraries and advocated the forming of one, however small. After some discussion it was resolved to take steps towards forming one and the matter was left to the Committee on Nominations. Miss Cruikshank, of Fairbank, after outlining her method of teaching literature to junior pupils, exemplified it in a pleasing manner with a class of little girls.

The second day's session of the South York Teachers' Association's meeting, Friday, in the Parkdale Model School, was attended by about one hundred and fifty teachers. In fact all the teachers in South York were present, with the exception of seven. The first order of the day was the election of officers. Inspector Fotheringham was elected president, Jas. Hand, Stouffville, vice-president; J. A. Wismer, Parkdale, sec.-treas.; R. W. Hicks, Parkdale, corresponding secretary; Executive committee, Messrs. S. Jewett, W. Wilson, R. Cowling, H. Sampson, J. Latter. A committee was then appointed to purchase books for a teachers' professional library, consisting of Messrs. J. A. Wismer, W. Wilson, and Inspector Fotheringham. A resolution was also passed appointing Messrs. Wismer and Hand delegates to the Ontario Teachers' Association meeting and instructing them to move for amendments to the constitution making the said association more strictly representative of the teaching profession of the whole province. Mr. Rennie read a paper on Temperance.

In the afternoon Inspector Fotheringham delivered a lecture on "Discipline," taking Fitch's lectures on that subject as a basis. Miss Anderson taught a lesson in English composition, and was followed by Mr. Dawson, who introduced the subject of making teachers members of the County Board of Examiners. Mr. Dawson put his arguments so clearly before the meeting that a unanimous motion was passed endorsing the same. Mr. Tilley also delivered a lecture on "Professional Fellowship Amongst Teachers," which was listened to attentively and evoked great applause.

NEVER value anything as profitable to thyself which shall compel thee to break thy promise, to lose thy self-respect, to hate any man, to suspect, to curse, to act the hypocrite, to desire anything which needs walls and curtains.—*Marcus Aurelius.*