

whole number, were registered in attendance at four meetings. *More than seven-eighths were registered at three, two or only one meeting.* The percentage of new members, registered for the first time, varied from 68 per cent in 1887 to about 31 per cent in 1883 and in 1887.

Having thus stated the facts, I leave it to others to draw inferences therefrom.

HERBERT C. CREED,
Secretary.

For the REVIEW.]

In re School Registers.

There are two or three points touching our school registers and the keeping of them that have often been before my mind and about which I am just now moved to write.

One is the marking of tardiness on the part of pupils. I have known schools in which *unpunctuality* was practically taught. The boys might be five minutes late and it made no difference. But this is not usual, and it is not *the point*. The point just now is that, according to the newspaper report of the recent Teachers' Institute in St. John, the teachers there hold that a pupil is not late if he is in time to answer to his name or number. Is this right? Is it fair? Suppose No. 10 and No. 40 entered the room together, just in time for the latter to answer! They are both late, since the moment for opening school has passed. But according to the practice said to be followed in the city, No. 10 is marked tardy, while No. 40 is marked punctual. It seems to me the only proper rule is to mark everyone tardy who is not present when the roll-call begins. If anyone enters after that moment, but in time to answer to his name, let him say "tardy" instead of "present."

Another point is regarding the record of "school standing." There is no uniformity in the manner of estimating and recording this. The Board of Education should by all means publish a well-considered plan and require all teachers to conform to it. Here is a plan followed in the schools of at least one town in New Brunswick. Regularity, punctuality, deportment and progress, are each of them marked in parts of 10 or 100, and then the four are averaged. This is absurd. A boy who is almost always present, "to have some fun," and who is never late, but who never knows his lessons and behaves very badly, may make the following marks at the end of the month: 100, 95, 40, 33,—with an average of 67, which is set down as his school "standing." Another, who, for good reasons perhaps, is often absent and often late, but studies hard, makes good progress and behaves well, gets 50, 60, 78 and 80, with the same average

and therefore the same "standing." This gives too much weight to the first two elements.

The third point I have to mention is the irregularity—not to say dishonesty—practised by some teachers, in calling the roll and marking the attendance at the beginning of a half holiday. I have known teachers repeatedly to tell their pupils to "come back after dinner to answer to their numbers and then they may go skating." Of course the government then pays for work that is not done. It is needless to point out the evils in this.

AN OLD TEACHER.

For the REVIEW.]

Bands of Mercy.

"The S. P. C. A. may be well enough, but I can see no sense in those Bands of Mercy.

"To instil into the minds of young children such a love for dumb creatures that they will always be ready to protect them is good, but there is so much cruelty that cannot be reached by such a society," &c., &c.

So many remarks of this kind have fallen upon my ears that the utterers of them will pardon me if I use some of them as a text for this paper.

Let me take my readers into a prettily decorated, well lighted room, in which is being held a fair, presided over by some young members of a Band of Mercy, assisted by their senior friends, the object of which is to raise funds to aid in the erection of a drinking fountain.

See the interested faces of the boys and girls who have really worked to bring about this end; and into whose minds is constantly instilled the principle, Earn what you get, work rather than ask aid.

This is not the only instance in which good work has been done in the Bands of Mercy in Saint John, and the S. P. C. A. has on several occasions received substantial assistance from the efforts of the Bands.

Happily this fair was a financial success, and the "fountain fund" was considerably augmented by its instrumentality, but supposing even that the end was not attained and the animal kingdom not immediately benefited, is it not a great matter to band together young people to work for any worthy cause.

The habits of intelligent observation and of unselfish interest which it stimulates has a tendency to develop public spirited citizens, the want of which as a class is sorely felt in the community.

The subtle power of influence for good or ill is incalculable, and the constantly expanding mind of the young offers the best field of labour.

In our efforts to benefit race, let us endeavour to mould rather than reform, to aid the S. P. C. A. by acting on the underlying causes that go to the formation of character, so that some one may see the day when the necessity for such a society will cease.

To be well employed in a good cause, to learn to work without expecting immediate results, to be satisfied to sow, feeling that whoever reaps will reap good fruit, is a lesson we would do well to learn.