

direct it. But little time was spent in discussing points of order or in displays of pretentious oratory.

First Session.—After a few words of explanation and welcome by the President, the Association retired to the practice room of the Normal School to witness a lesson in reading conducted by Miss Russel, of the Model School. The lesson was designed to illustrate the phonic method of teaching reading, and elicited an interesting discussion, participated in by Dr. Ross, Principal Calkin, Inspector Patillo, the President, Mr. Parker of Port Hastings, and others. The more formal exercise of this session was the presentation of a paper on "A Course of Study for the Public Schools" by A. H. McKay, Esq., Principal of Picton Academy. An outline course was submitted for inspection, and discussion thereon was fixed for a subsequent session. Mr. McKay's paper presented with great clearness the principles which should guide in the selection of studies. The Conspectus furnished aims at being suggestive and tentative, rather than complete and final. It makes four groups of studies. *Calisthenics, Language, Mathematics, History*; and contemplates four Common School grades, and four High School grades.

Second Session.—The first exercise of this session was an excellent essay by Principal Calkin, on "The Observing Powers." This important subject was discussed in a philosophical manner. The true aim of education is the harmonious development of all those faculties which unitedly constitute our ideal of a perfect man, and the office of the teacher is so to direct the inherent spontaneous forces and activities of the child's nature, as that his development shall be natural,—shall be an historical epitome of the development of the higher races of man. The material for the formation of thought is largely furnished through the senses. The accuracy, force, and range of our intellectual work depend on the correctness and clearness of the impressions made upon the senses. Their careful training, therefore, according to psychological principles, is of the first importance. The paper contained many practical suggestions as to how this could be effected. These principles were illustrated by a lesson in drawing, conducted by Miss Smith, of the Normal School, herself an accomplished artist; and by an imitable lesson in botany, by Miss Mary Hamerton, of the Model School. The Association then proceeded, according to pre-arrangement, to consider the "course of study" introduced and outlined by Mr. McKay. Pertinent questions were asked by Dr. Ross, which gave the author of the course further opportunity to explain the principles according to which it was framed. Inspector Congdon correctly interpreted the feeling of the Association when he referred in grateful terms to the obligations under which all had been placed by Mr. McKay's labors. Mr. A. G. Parsons, while criticising the course on some points of detail, was in hearty sympathy with its general scope and spirit. He hoped that by proper development it might be made the means of a thorough re-organization of our high school work.

Third Session.—This session took the form of a public educational meeting in the Y. M. C. A. Hall. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor presided. Speeches were delivered by His Honor the Superintendent of Education, Rev. Chancellor Hill, very Rev. Principal Ross, Rev. President Lawyer, and Professor Higgins. The meeting may be characterized as one of the most successful of the kind ever held in the Province.

Fourth Session.—U. D. McKenzie, Inspector District No 10, gave a thoughtful address, listened to with great interest on account of its important practical suggestions, on "School Hygiene." The relation between healthful intellectual activity and proper physical conditions was lucidly discussed, ventilation, light, cleanliness, school-building sites, precautionary sanitary measures and similar points were lucidly touched on. Mr. McKay of Picton, Inspector Congdon and others followed with pertinent remarks and suggestions.

E. H. Owen, Esq., Principal of the Lunenburg Academy, read an instructive paper on Methods of Teaching History by outlines and diagrams. Mr. Owen supplemented his remarks by presenting an original and ingenious chart, used with great success in his own school. An interchange of views followed, engaged in by Messrs. Calkin, Parker, Parsons, Elliott, Patillo, Congdon, and McKay.

Fifth Session.—Rev. Geo. U. Hill, A.M., D.C.L., Chancellor of the University of Halifax, addressed the Association on a subject which may be epitomized as the proper correlation of studies followed by a brief sketch of the history of education in Nova Scotia, and a statement of our present educational needs. The address was most eloquent and practical, and was referred to in terms of warm appreciation by those who spoke in response to its suggestions. The lesson deduced by the President from the interesting and pro-

fitable discussion thus originated, was that the true aim before us is to make our country as well educated as other countries, especially as those with which she comes into either commercial or intellectual competition.

The discussion of the proposed "Conspectus of a course of study for the Public School," was resumed and carried on at considerable length. Ultimately the following special committee was appointed to confer with the Superintendent of Education in elaborating the outline for presentation at next session: Principal Calkin, Mr. McKay (Picton), Inspectors McDonald and Patillo, and Professor Higgins.

A motion regarding text-books was briefly discussed, and the Association, after customary formal procedure, adjourned.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The public schools throughout the Province re-opened on the 23rd of August.

Mr. Jas. Fowler, M.A., Instructor in Natural Science in the Provincial Normal School, is about to remove to Kingston, Ont., where he takes the position of Lecturer in Natural Science and Librarian at Queen's College. As a practical botanist, Mr. Fowler is widely known on both sides of the Atlantic, and has laid this Province under obligations to him by many valuable contributions to the knowledge of its flora. His removal will be regretted by many who have enjoyed his friendship and his instructions.

The fourth department (Grades VII. and VIII.) of the Model Schools at Fredericton has been placed in charge of Mr. James Vroom, of St. Stephen, in the room of Mr. R. S. Nicolson.

Before this number of the JOURNAL reaches its readers, three of the County Teachers' Institutes will have held their annual meetings, viz.: Albert County, at Harvey; Restigouche County, at River Charles; and Sunbury County, at Oromocto, all on the 2nd and 3rd of September.

The Gloucester County Institute is to meet at Bathurst on the 23rd and 24th of September, and that of Northumberland County at Chatham on the 7th and 8th of October.

The fourth annual meeting of the Educational Institute of N.B., referred to in our "Notes" last month, in some respects surpassed all previous meetings in interest and profit. A most favorable impression seems to have been made upon the public mind by the ability, earnestness and freedom that characterized the discussions, which were somewhat fully reported for the St. John press. Immediately after the formal opening of the Institute, on the evening of July 13th, Dr. Rand delivered a public address, the chief topics of which were (1) the spirit that should prompt and govern the educator, and (2) a plea for secondary education. This was an able effort, and, to quote from the press report, "was received with loud applause and warm encomiums from all who listened to it."

Mr. Principal Crockett, of the Normal School, was called upon to take a very prominent part in the proceedings of this Institute, which must have entailed an immense amount of self-sacrificing labor upon him. In the first place, as Chairman of the Committee on a Course of Instruction for High Schools, he had drawn up most carefully a detailed curriculum extending over four years of High School work, and adapted to the various conditions of towns and county districts. Printed copies of this were placed in the hands of the members of the Institute, and Mr. Crockett explained at length the general principles and leading features of the course. Then, again, on the third day of the meeting, Mr. Crockett read two very instructive and suggestive papers, the first under the title, "The Kindergarten—Does the system differ from the principles of modern education?" and the second on the Method of Instruction in the subjects of Minerals, Animal Life, and Plant Life required by the standards of the existing course. The latter was restricted, for want of time, mainly to illustrations of lessons on Animal Life.

On the same day (at the sixth session) a subject of much practical importance was brought before the Institute by Mr. Inspector Oakes, in an admirable paper followed by a variety of experiments. The subject was, "How the Instruction in Physics required by the Standard of the Course may be given in Schools without Expensive Apparatus." At the last session of the Institute, on the Thursday evening, a lecture was delivered by Dr. Bailey, of the Provincial University, in presence of a large audience. His subject, "Phases of Matter," was supplementary to that presented by him before the Institute in 1878, "Forms of Energy." The lecture was illustrated by a large number of striking experiments, for which elaborate preparation had been made, and which were very successfully performed by the professor, assisted by Mr. John Babbitt.