

WE HAVE just received the calendar of Acadia Seminary for 1891-92. This excellent institution is beautifully situated in the quiet and neat little town of Wolfville. It offers three courses of study, each extending over four years. The first three years of the Literary Course is somewhat more than the equivalent of grade "B" work. There are twelve teachers, seven in the arts department and five in the musical department. Those of the teachers with whom we are acquainted rank very high, not only as scholars, but also as teachers and ladies in every way qualified, "not only to train and develop the mind, but to cultivate the heart; not only to mould character, but to implant lofty aims and ideals." Much attention is given to voice training and calisthenics under the superior teaching of Miss H. E. Wallace, so well known to many of our readers as the charming elocutionist of the Summer School of Science at Parrsboro. There are about 100 pupils enrolled, of whom 42 are taking a full course. Necessary expenses for a full school year amount to about one hundred and fifty dollars.

THE PROJECT for a new school house at Amherst is progressing favorably. The first plans were too expensive. After some modification they still exceeded the amount voted by \$7,000. At a public meeting held lately this additional amount was voted by a large majority, and the work will now be rapidly carried on so as to be fit for occupation next winter. The building and grounds will cost over \$32,000.

DR. MACKAY, Superintendent of Education, is suffering from a slight attack of scarlet fever, which unfortunately places his house in quarantine for the second time, and immediately after a trial of eight weeks of the same kind. The inconvenience to himself and to the public will not be so great as it might otherwise be owing to the fact that he is assisted by Mr. G. W. T. Irving, a most judicious secretary and an able and experienced educationist.

IN OUR N. S. exchanges we are glad to note the interest taken in the terminal examinations of academies and other schools. Several columns are devoted to the publication of the names of successful candidates for promotion. We doubt the propriety, however, of publishing the percentages made at these examinations. A stimulus of this kind stimulates where it is not needed and only does harm, and it perhaps only hardens or discourages those who feel themselves unable to compete for these distinctions successfully.

#### EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION IN NOVA SCOTIA.

A government bill amending the education law of Nova Scotia has just passed through the legislature. It will undoubtedly cause a little revolution in the old order of things. On the first of November next a school term will commence which will end probably about the first week of July. This transition term will be understood to be for all purposes three-fourths of the regular school year. Under the new order the school year is defined as commencing on the first of August and ending on the last of July following. The summer vacation will, however, come out of the end of one year and the beginning of the next, possibly taking the last three weeks of July and the first three weeks of August. This vacation will naturally separate the closing of the schools from the opening by a sufficient time to enable teachers who change their position to do it leisurely without injuring their work at the closing of the one school or the opening of the other. It will also do away with the evil of changing teachers at the end of April and October; and will save the equivalent of several weeks of effective school work to the country.

The arrangement will be specially advantageous to the high school institutions; as it enables them to articulate perfectly with the college or university system. It will therefore enable them to take up the course of study more leisurely, instead of rushing partly over it twice a year, as at present, to the utter discomfiture of young students whose hearts are not entirely set on study. The provincial examination will take place exactly at the closing of the schools, we presume.

From one of the amendments making preparation for a change in the number of provincial examiners, and the examination of those pursuing the high school course of study, we fancy we see an intention of increasing the board of examiners, so as to enable the results of examination to be published more rapidly than at present. This annual examination will be used as evidence of scholarship on the part of candidates for license to teach. We infer, therefore, that all pursuing a high school course of study can at the end of the school year take an examination on their year's work and if successful carry away a provincial diploma or certificate of scholarship, which will have a definite value all over the province, and may be used according to its grade as evidence of scholarship for the respective classes of license for teaching, or for matriculation into our colleges and universities, etc., etc. We presume this means that the double course of study imposed on our high schools will be unified, viz., the course prescribed for