

stances the school-rooms are not kept tidy, and therefore I think it would be well that some regulations, recommended perhaps by the Protestant Committee and adopted by the several Boards of Commissioners, should be put in force to secure the comfort of the pupils and the proper care-taking of the school property. As a matter of fact, a specially appointed caretaker in the country schools is a rarity, the *chores* being generally performed by some pupil exempted from the payment of fees, or in some other more irregular manner.

Nearly all the schools have fallen into line with the routine of school-work laid down by the prescribed Course of Study, as the tabulated returns of the June Examinations show. The report of these examinations gives evidence of some measure of success to the plan of simultaneous examination, and when a year's experience can be brought to bear upon the arrangements of subsequent years, even greater satisfaction may be expected. In the final awards made upon the statistics of the examination by the Committee, too much importance should not be attached to the position which any Academy or Model School may hold upon the list. In pointing out the best among so many schools is a difficult undertaking, so many elements having to be taken into consideration, namely, the *amount* of work done, as may be seen by the number of pupils in attendance, the number presented, and the grand total of marks; the *quality* of the work done, as may be seen from the average percentages of each pupil, and the total of the general averages per centum; and the general condition of the school, which is to be found from the Inspector's special reports on each school. If every school sent up a fair number of pupils in all the grades, then the product of the average per cent., multiplied by the number of pupils presented, would be a very good criterion for grading all the schools in an order of merit. But this is not the case, some schools presenting pupils of one grade only, others of two, and a number of three. Hence, it is hardly possible to discriminate the work of one school from another when the figures are not very widely different, for where one element may be strong, another may be weak, and besides everybody knows that as good work may be done in a small school as in a large one.

In the matter of apparatus, Commissioners are become more