

suggestions will probably be endorsed by all practical and experienced teachers:—

It should be reserved for the baser faults. A child should never be struck for the little faults and irregularities of school life. It should be a "*dernier ressort*," the last argument to which teachers are sometimes driven. When used at all it should be administered in strong doses to be effective. The system of slaps, pinches, etc., is wrong. That kind of treatment only tends to stir up anger and encourage evil.

The head should be sacred from all violence. Pulling hair, ears, slapping and thumping are all brutal and moreover dangerous.

It should be administered coolly and without temper, otherwise it loses the desired effect and degenerates into mere retaliation.

It should be remembered, however, that there exists in this age a "*lex non scripta*" which ranks the teacher in the inverse ratio to the frequency with which he wields the rod. It should not be forgotten either that he has legal rights and no inconsiderable legal authority, and he should deserve and demand the respect due to his office. GEO. J. MILLER.

Queens and Sunbury Institute.

The Teachers' Institute of Queens and Sunbury Counties was held at Gagetown, May 25th and 26th. Twenty-four members enrolled. Papers were read on the following subjects: School Libraries and Literature, by Miss E. McNaughton, A. B.; Physical Geography, by Mrs. M. A. Cox; Writing, by Miss M. K. Tibbits. The additional papers on Grammar and Order were not forthcoming, so the Institute took up these subjects for discussion. Several members of the Institute prepared notes on the subject of Order, and the discussion was very interesting. The Chief Superintendent of Education and Inspector Bridges were present at the Friday afternoon session and took part in the various discussions. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. R. B. Wallace; Vice-President, Mrs. M. A. Cox; Secretary, Miss Tibbits. Additional members of executive: Mr. H. H. Bridges and Miss E. McNaughton.

A public meeting was held on Friday evening, which was largely attended. Addresses were made by the Chief Superintendent, Dr. Inch, Inspector Bridges, Rev. N. C. Hansen, Rev. A. Reul, Rev. A. C. Dennis. Miss Blanche Tibbits played a violin selection and Mr. Bridges sang a solo.

Mr. W. F. Vroom, late of the firm of Vroom Bros., who will graduate next month at the Teacher's College, New York, has been appointed instructor in wood-working in that institution, and will take charge of that department of manual training at the beginning of the next college year.—*St. Croix Courier*.

Inspector Bridges received many congratulations upon his very able alumni oration delivered at the U. N. B.

The Fur Seal and Its Home.

In the midst of Behring sea lies a small group of islands, to the rocky shores of which annually resort millions of highly organized animals to breed and shed their hair and fur. The Pribilof islands are only sixty square miles in area, yet they support more available wealth than all the rest of the five hundred thousand of Alaska. The principal islands are St. Paul and St. George, the former of which is the great seal ground of the northern hemisphere. This little island is visited yearly by over five million fur seals, while St. George lying only twenty-seven miles to the southeast, is the resort of about a quarter of a million. The other two, Otter and Walrus, are visited by seals in much smaller numbers.

On these islands the fur seals can come from the cool waters of the Behring sea and rest, without inconvenience or annoyance of sunlight, which rarely breaks through the fogbanks peculiar to this latitude. So uncomfortable are these animals made by heat that a few hours of sunshine, with the temperature as low as fifty degrees in the shade, will drive nearly all the non-breeding seals back to the water, and cause those that remain to pant, and resort to various movements of their flippers in order to cool themselves. But the humid fogs quickly regain their ground, and with them the seals also.

With the clearing away of the ice and snow, early in May, come the first seals of the season. All the early animals are full grown males which anticipate the coming of the females by about six weeks. They take their positions on the rookeries—usually an area about ten feet—and will not leave unless driven away by superior force. During the three or four months they are there they take no food nor water, though continually active. In this respect they differ from bears and similar hibernating animals. These males fight desperately with each other, even to death, for their position on the rookeries. They are from six to seven feet in length and weigh from three to five hundred pounds. The females are much smaller, being about four feet long, and weighing an average of eighty pounds.

During June and July the females appear by the thousands, and acres of ground are packed with them as closely as they can lie. The young are born shortly after the arrival of the females. These young seals are exceedingly frolicsome at sea, running races in the surf, chasing each other, and whirling in swift circles. Their first attempts to swim are laughably awkward, but they continue to flounder, flop, and paddle until by the time they are ready to leave in October or November, they are expert swimmers.