

Supervisor McKay, of Halifax; Editor Woodworth, of Berwick; Superintendent MacKay and Prof. Walter Murray, of Dalhousie. Superintendent MacKay spent a whole day at the school, and, in the course of an address, expressed himself as much pleased with the work that he saw.

Field excursions by the whole school were made on two afternoons in each week. One excursion to Black Rock, a distance of twelve miles, occupied a whole day.

This summer school offers the way to Nova Scotia teachers who may wish to proceed to the rural science diploma. The tests required for the latter are regular attendance at one or more sessions, a satisfactory report on the individual work of the subjects by the instructors and the passing of an examination. A course of study between terms is recommended, so that a teacher, according to his proficiency, can reach the diploma in one, two or three sessions.

School boards having teachers self-sacrificing enough to give up their summer holidays to the work of advancing professional efficiency should show, tangibly and otherwise, their appreciation of such efforts. At the Truro school the main object was not to increase scientific knowledge, but to re-organize what knowledge the students already have with a view to training.

Real and Fake Teaching.

Teaching school is hard work; keeping school an easy job; training children to think requires energy, purpose and culture; stuffing children with text-book facts does not require either energy, purpose or culture. Almost any one can tell pupils "how to work the sums" in a common school arithmetic, ask the questions found in a catechism geography, listen to pupils recite the text of a history and watch pupils imprison sentences in diagrams. No one who is content to remain in a state of rest can stimulate mental activity in others. The living dead cannot lead others to think or to do. Children cannot be properly trained, morally or intellectually, by a passive believer in traditional theories and inherited practices. Only he who dares to think for himself can lead others to think for themselves. Leadership requires conviction, courage, and a magnetic personality.—J. N. Patrick.

LESSONS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE—I.

By ELEANOR ROBINSON.

The Story of Beowulf.

[This series of lessons is planned to accompany and illustrate the English history lessons of children from ten to fourteen. The lessons begin with Anglo-Saxon times, and will be continued in chronological order. As the introduction indicates, they are intended to show how the making of books went on side by side with the other work of the nation, and also how these books reflect the national life. It is suggested that the lessons should be read, or, as is much better, told to the children, who should be called upon to tell them again in their own words.]

INTRODUCTION.

The story of Beowulf is told in the first great poem that belongs to the English people. I do not say the first great *English* poem, because then you might think that you could read it for yourselves, as you can "The Lady of the Lake," or "Evangeline." But the language of the poem is so different from the English of our time that it has to be studied almost like a foreign tongue. There is no mention of England or of the English people in the story, and we are not even sure that it was first told in England. No one knows certainly by whom it was first told, or where, or when.

You learn in history about the tribes of Jutes, Angles and Saxons, who came over from the continent and conquered Britain in the fifth century, and who afterwards came to be called English, and gave the name of England to part of the island. It was a custom among these tribes for minstrels to sing or recite at banquets the stories of the great deeds of their ancestors, and of other heroes, and it is thought that the story of Beowulf was one of these minstrel songs, and that it had been sung and told among them for a great many years, perhaps before they ever came to England. Sometime in the eighth century, however, it was written down; but it was never printed in a book until less than a hundred years ago.

"Beowulf" is what is called an epic poem. An epic poem is one that tells a story of great and heroic deeds done by great men, and tells it in grand and noble words. An epic poem, too, always shows us something greater than man and his deeds, and this little life of ours; it tells of the unseen world, and of the great and eternal powers that govern all life.

The story of Beowulf shows, by the way in which it speaks of the heathen gods, and of the unseen world, that it was first told by heathen people; but