

## TEACHERS' CONVENTIONS.

## KINGS AND HANTS COUNTIES INSTITUTE.

The annual teachers' Institute of District No. 5, comprising Kings and Hants Counties, met April 19th and 20th at Hantsport. The first session began at 9.45 a. m., on the former date, Inspector Roscoe, president, in the chair. After enrolling 120 teachers and some routine work arranged for, the president gave a short address of welcome, and outlined the work according to the programme. Principal Robinson, of Kentville Academy, read a short paper on Suggestions for Nature Study. After showing how natural the study of such subjects was, and yet how vague were the ideas of it in the minds of many, he outlined a plan which, if followed, would systematize the subject. The basis of this plan was to use the copies of the sheets sent out to teachers to fill in, entitled, Phenological Observations. Three would be needed, one for the pupil, one for the teacher, and one for the inspector. The one in the hands of the teacher should be filled for future reference. This would certainly improve matters, as there is no arrangement at present for continuous work in this delightful subject.

An illustrative lesson on the preparation of oxygen was given by W. H. Powell, of the Maitland school. A class of Grade X pupils was taught by various tests the physical and chemical properties of this element. After adjournment, the second session opened by a discussion on the relative values of the two systems of teaching music, tonic sol-fa *versus* staff notation. Mrs. P. E. Parker, a teacher of the Wolfville staff, outlined a plan by which the two might be combined, taking the former for the basis, and joining it as soon as possible to the staff notation. This she did very thoroughly, and the impression was fixed in the minds of all, that after all perhaps this was the better plan. And as it did not require that a teacher should be a good singer to do this, so it seemed apparent that there was no real variance between the two. Professor Haley, of Acadia University, then gave a clear exposition of the method of transmitting either impulses by the Marconi wireless telegraphy method. By diagrams and some simple apparatus he proved that the theory is well grounded, and that this mysterious device, although in its infancy, is here to stay, and in the years to come will be a great boon to mankind. Although not professing to explain everything about it, Professor Haley succeeded in interesting the teachers and others present, as well as clearly expounding the accepted theory with reference to the susceptibility of the ether to receive and transmit impulses.

Miss A. B. Juniper, teacher of household science in the Middleton consolidated school, read a carefully prepared paper on Discipline, as it affects the tone of a school. Comparing discipline in England with that in Canada, as far as she had seen it, she thought we were behind in many respects. Dis-

cipline she regarded as covering everything that improved the tone of a school, and that it meant more than perfect order in the schoolroom. As the teacher made or marred the school, so the teacher must be the example in discipline. Teachers, to have the respect of their pupils, must be moral, neat in appearance, self-controlled, and exacting in matters deemed of little importance by many. Principal A. Patterson, who is now seventy-five years of age, and still in active teaching at Acacia Villa school, complimented Miss Juniper on the ideas set forth by her, and proclaimed that what was needed to-day was efficient teachers, men and women of good moral fibre, quick to see the needs and ready to apply the cure.

The public meeting in the evening was a large one. The programme was a varied one, consisting of a prettily executed hoop-drill by twenty young ladies of the Hantsport schools, addresses on domestic science, its needs and benefits, by Miss Juniper; the development of the mineral resources of Nova Scotia, by Prof. Dahl, of King's College, Windsor, and Dr. Kierstead, of Acadia University, who spoke on the study of language and literature. The latter speaker was supplying the place of Superintendent MacKay, who was called away by the illness of his aged mother. Other music was supplied by Hantsport ladies, who are noted for their musical talent, and also by Principal Ford, of the Wolfville schools, who is an excellent teacher, not only in the schoolroom, but as well on the violin.

Thursday, April 20th, was crowded with work. Beginning at 9 a. m., a lesson was taught to a class of Grade VIII pupils by Miss Kaulbach, of Kentville Academy. This was a language lesson. The poem called "Bismillah"—"In God's Name," was written on the board and each pupil had a copy. It was a well taught lesson, conversational in manner and the salient points in diction, meanings of words, structure, were noted, and the story reproduced at the close by the pupils. Then followed a lesson to the same class on Mathematical Drawing, by Miss M. E. Parker, Hantsport. This lesson was well taught also, the children performing the work on the blackboard in the presence of all. Miss E. J. Yuill, Wolfville, gave an interesting address on English literature taught in Grades IX and X, more particularly Lamb's Tales. She gave the methods she used, and clearly showed how it could be done in a miscellaneous school. The main idea was to get the portraiture of the different characters in the pupils' own words, writing essays on different points, the study of words, etc. It was exhaustive, and showed what might be done by an enthusiastic teacher. Mr. B. McMahon, of Waterville, a former teacher, then brought up the subject of reading matter for teachers, emphasizing the necessity of taking the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, *Canadian Magazine*, *World-Wide*, and other periodicals. He has the agency for several houses, and asked the teachers to make selections to keep abreast of the age,