

For THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.]

Music in the Public Schools of Fredericton.

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In September, 1907, on the recommendation of the Teachers' Association of the City of Fredericton and several prominent citizens, the school board introduced the study of music in the primary grades, as an experiment. For two years the work was carried on, in this way, in grades one and two. The results proving satisfactory both to the school board and the public, in 1909, the teaching was extended to grades three, four and five, and music was adopted as a regular study on the school curriculum, following in September, 1910.

The plan of work is as follows: Beginning with the first year in school, the elements of time, tune, and notation, are presented and elaborated, grade by grade, through the entire school curriculum. In grades one, two and three the time is spent in teaching all the common scale intervals and reading melodies in rhythms of two, threes, fours and sixes, in which these intervals occur, all the work being done at the blackboard. In grade four music readers are placed in the hands of the pupils. Grade five, two part song is introduced. Three and four part song with all accidentals are taught in grades six, seven and eight. The easier oratorios, part songs, and glees, are taught in the high school.

Such in brief is the outline of school music study in the City of Fredericton.

A public school music course can only be successfully carried out under the direction of a supervisor specially trained for the work. It is useless for any one who has not had special preparation to attempt class teaching, no matter how great the skill in music may be along other lines. The technique of teaching sight reading is as different from the piano as is the piano from the violin. This does not say that no skill in music is required; on the contrary, the better the musician the better the teacher after having had a proper training in school methods.

In a city of any size the teaching must be done by the day school teacher, who receives her instruction from the supervisor. Any day school teacher can learn to teach her own grade with assistance of the supervisor. This is particularly true of

grades one to six. Grades seven and eight and high school should be taught by the supervisor.

It is claimed by many teachers that they cannot sing, but the writer has found the teachers under his direction in the schools of Fredericton, perfectly able to carry on the work after having had the necessary instruction. Many claimed at first that the work would be beyond their abilities, but, with the application of definite principles of teaching, they have succeeded in getting excellent results. The ability to sing to some extent is natural to every healthy child. This fact has been established by supervisors of wide experience. It has also been found to be a fact in the experience of the writer.

It therefore follows that every teacher must have some latent ability to sing. It is most important that the work be carried on by the regular grade teacher, as the pupils of every room should receive one fifteen minutes lesson daily. This would be impossible in a city of any size if the supervisor were left to do all of the teaching.

It is the duty of the supervisor to instruct the teacher in methods, place in her hands the necessary materials for doing the work, assist her in whatever difficulties may occur, and teach the higher grades himself. This plan is being carried out in the City of Fredericton, and the success of the work is due to organization along these lines.

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Musca.

By J. VROOM.

There is no greater enemy of man than Musca, the house fly, now sometimes called the typhoid fly. Typhoid fever and other intestinal diseases are known to be carried and propagated by it. Bear your part in the war against it.

Flies live and breed in all sorts of filth. They infect food and drink by germ-laden feet. They should therefore be kept out of dwellings. But there is much more than this to be done in the way of prevention. Flies cannot live without food, and the food they most need is garbage. It matters not whether the garbage is the manure heap about the stable, the basin in the corner of the sink, the unwashed dishes left from the last meal, or the insanitary tubs in which house refuse is kept. Garbage is the food upon which they feed and the breeding place in which they lay their eggs. It