

Drawing is another branch that is too much neglected. If we wish the young to acquire habits of minute observation, a familiarity with forms and outlines of models and objects in nature, they certainly need to be taught the art of designing and drawing. Few exercises afford greater pleasure to children; and, if their feeble markings were regulated by a skilful teacher, they would soon learn to delineate many of the objects with which they are surrounded. This has been evinced by samples procured from a few schools where drawing is practised.

In our best schools there are pupils possessing a pretty general acquaintance with common school arithmetic and its application to commercial transactions. Intellectual arithmetic also receives considerable attention, and some shew great aptitude for mental calculations.

In English Grammar more oral instruction is being given, the different parts of speech are better understood, and a fuller insight into the analysis and construction of sentences is observable.

Geography forms an interesting study in all our schools. Calkin's Geographies, and Nelson's Maps are those in use, and are highly prized by teachers.

History, Geometry, Algebra and Chemistry of Common Things have been taught in the most advanced schools and in many instances with marked success.

It is to be regretted that in some of our schools there is still an insufficient supply of books and necessary apparatus. Teachers justly complain that they cannot perform required duties without material to work with. Trustees leave the matter of providing books mostly to parents, and many parents are very remiss in this respect. The regulations of the Council plainly require the rate-payers to vote money for the purchase of books and apparatus as well as for other school purposes, and the trustees to furnish them, yet these requirements are not carried out, and seem not likely to be unless measures for enforcement are adopted.

The books used are those sanctioned by the Council of Public Instruction. The readers recently prescribed will prove a valuable accession, calculated as they are to please, instruct and claim the attention of scholars by the varied and interesting subjects presented.

As before stated, the average attendance has been better the past year than usual, and this is an encouraging feature. Teachers, however, still affirm that their best meant efforts are often frustrated by irregular attendance, and doubtless this is one of the chief barriers to educational improvement. It is possible, as we have known in some instances, that teachers themselves might do somewhat towards remedying this evil by making the school room more interesting, and by visiting the homes of their pupils, conversing with their parents and informing them of what is needed for the educational improvement of their offspring.

The registers are, as a general thing, correctly and neatly kept. Trustees are not always careful to preserve the old ones.

The A returns are more satisfactorily filled than formerly. A few are still faulty, and have to be returned. The B returns are often defective. Many trustees not seeming to know how they should be filled.

It becomes my melancholy duty to record the death of one of the teachers of this county. Mr. Leander Reynolds had been but a few years engaged in the profession. He was a young man of much promise and was highly esteemed by his pupils and those with whom he was intimately acquired. His loss is deeply regretted.

In conclusion, I beg to tender my cordial thanks to you, sir, for kind advice and useful suggestions in your correspondence on matters of educational import; to the Commissioners for the interest they have taken in the schools of the county, and the generous aid they have afforded me in the performance