

Educational Notes and News.

The attendance has nearly doubled at the Woodstock High School since Mr. D. H. Hunter became Principal. A flourishing Literary Society is connected with the school. There is perhaps no school in the province which is possessed of better musical talent. Frequent entertainments of an excellent musical and Literary character are given by the society.

A Literary Society has been organized in connection with the High School in Smith's Falls. Mr. W. N. Robertson, B.A., has been appointed president and John G. Little, B.A., secretary. Under such management the society can scarcely fail to be successful. All efforts will be made to do a good deal of school work at the meetings of the society.

HOW ARBOR DAY WAS OBSERVED.

Public School, S. 2, Onondago, Brant County, J. H. Clary, Teacher. Planted hard and soft maples, pines, willows, beeches, &c., 25 in all, on rather unfavorable ground.

Milton Public School, H. Gray, Teacher. Yard put in order. Six flower beds laid out. Shrubby trimmed, and roots dug about. Sixty shade trees set out, hard and soft maples, chestnuts, birches, bass-woods, spruces, &c.

Osprey Public School, Amos Lovell, Teacher. Planted 32 young maples, as many as there was room for on grounds. A few rate-payers manifested their interest in the improvement of their school by assisting in the work.

S. S. No. 3, Medonte, Simcoe County, J. F. Middlemas, teacher. Twenty-three hard maples and three beeches planted and grounds otherwise improved. Each scholar helped to plant his tree and has his name artistically carved on the board wall behind it.

If other teachers will kindly send in their reports we shall be glad to publish them for the sake of mutual encouragement.—Ed.

There is (says the *Phrenological Magazine*) a great clamour for the "practical" in education. Schools are wanted to teach boys and girls to "do" all sorts of things. Trade, mechanics, making money—this seems to be the popular demand of school teaching. Sometimes we think this is carried too far. Man is not wholly practical, nor a mere working machine. The soul needs culture as well as the fingers. To make the world happy, somebody must write rhymes and romances while others spin cotton. We need dreamers of dreams as well as earners of bread and butter. In looking after the practical too sharply, we are in danger of neglecting the best culture, that is the heart.

PUPIL-TEACHERS' BLUNDERS.

"Evidently," says the *St. James' Gazette*, "the teachers can blunder as well as the scholars. Here are some specimens from examination papers recently submitted by pupil-teachers to Her Majesty's inspectors of schools. 'My favourite walk,' says one in a composition paper, 'is when I do not have far to go to it.' The favourite walk of another is a drive in the country; and a third likes it best when he stays at home. 'The game of cricket,' foreigners especially, will be glad to know, 'consists of six wickets, two bats, and a ball.' 'Nor must we,' adds this writer thoughtfully, 'omit the balls, which are four in number.' 'Joan of Arc,' one is glad to learn, 'was very pious and rather goateal.' On the margin of this paper a waggish examiner notes, 'She also turned well.' 'Parse the words in italics,' the inspector said, in the following passage, beginning 'Fierce Roderick felt the fatal drain.' 'Drain,' explains a trainer of the young idea, 'that is, sewer or mire.' 'Man is mortal,' a Scotch girl tells us, means 'he is awfully drunk.' What strikes most of the students who have made a study of the life of Samson is that he 'toiled' with the jaw-bone of a dead ass. Had the animal lived, Samson's reputation would have suffered. The author of 'Samson Agonistes' (or 'Samson in Agony'), it may not be generally known, also wrote 'The Deserted Village; or, the Hamlet.'"

Victoria University Convocation last week was largely attended, and the proceedings were of unusual interest. The Senate granted 104 degrees in all, distributed among the various faculties as follows:—Arts—B.A., 19; M.A., 10. Law—LL.B., 3; LL.D., 1. Divinity—B.D., 4; D.D., 4. Medicine—M.D. and C.M., 63. The medallists are:—J. T. Lillie, Albert College, Prince of Wales Gold Medallist; J. H. Sanderson, Albert, Prince of Wales Silver Medallist; R. E. Fair, Victoria, Gold Medallist in Metaphysics; J. T. Lillie, Albert, Gold Medallist in Classics; J. H. Sanderson, Albert, Gold Medallist in Natural Science; G. W. Bruce, Victoria,

Gold Medallist in Modern Languages; A. C. Courtice, M.A., Toronto, Gold Medallist in Theology; R. P. Bowles, Victoria, Silver Medallist in Metaphysics; F. C. Colbeck, Victoria, Silver Medal in Classics; W. H. Williams, Victoria, Silver Medal in Mathematics; G. S. Bean, Victoria, Silver Medal in Natural Sciences; W. J. Chisholm, Victoria, Silver Medal in Modern Languages.

Various eloquent sermons and addresses were delivered in connection with the anniversary. The debate on the question of University Federation, which took place in connection with the Alumni meeting, is characterized as one of the ablest ever conducted before any Canadian body. It lasted from 8 p.m. till 2 a.m. The speakers in favor of the scheme were:—Rev. Dr. Burwash, Cobourg; James Mills, M.A., Principal of the Agricultural College, Guelph; Rev. Dr. Dewar, Toronto; Judge Dean, Lindsay; Rev. A. M. Phillips, B.D., Galt; Rev. J. C. Antliff, B.D., Brantford; Rev. Dr. Ryckman, London; Rev. A. C. Courtice, M.A., Toronto; Rev. W. S. Griffin, D.D., Guelph; J. M. Ferris, M.P.P., Campbellford. Among those who urged objections to Victoria entering the Federation were:—Rev. Dr. Sutherland, Toronto; Wm. Kerr, M.A., Q.C., Cobourg; J. J. McLaren, M.A., Q.C., Toronto; D. Dumble, LL.B., Peterboro'; Rev. Dr. Burns, Principal, Hamilton Ladies' College, Rev. Dr. Badgley, Cobourg; Rev. Dr. Stone, Toronto; Rev. J. D. Clarkson, M.A., Toronto; John Dumble, LL.B., Cobourg; B. M. Britton, M.A., Q.C., Kingston; S. F. Lazier, LL.B., Hamilton; N. Bigelow, M.A., Toronto; H. Hough, M.A., Cobourg; Dr. Lavelle, Warden, Kingston Penitentiary; H. McMullen, B.A., Picton; C. C. James, B.A. Nanawau. At the close of the debate the following resolution was carried with scarcely a dissenting voice:—"That it is the unanimous opinion of the Alumni of Victoria University, in annual meeting assembled, that we ought not to go into the proposed Federation without all reasonable assurance of our perpetuated existence as an Arts College."

The address of President Nelles to the Senate and members of Convocation, was an able plea in support of the proposed Federation.

NOVA SCOTIA.

From our own Correspondent.

The sixth annual session of the Teachers Association for District No. 4, including counties of Annapolis and Digby, met in Digby on Thursday and Friday, April 30th and May 1st. About sixty teachers were in attendance, the small number being accounted for by the bad state of the weather. Interesting and able papers were read by G. B. McGill, W. C. Jones, W. G. Parsons and W. C. Parker, while illustrative lessons were taught by W. H. Magee, Miss M. A. Wallace and Miss A. E. Parker, the three latter being teachers in the Digby county academy. Prof. F. H. Eaton, of the provincial Normal School, was present and took part in the proceedings. The essays and lessons were ably discussed and criticized as well as many mathematical and grammatical questions propounded at various times during the session. On Thursday evening Revd. Mr. Fisher, of Grenville Ferry, delivered an interesting lecture on "Francis Bacon Viscount St. Albans," pointing out especially his position as the originator of modern methods of thinking.

R. McDonald, Esq., has been compelled by continued ill-health to resign his position as Inspector of Schools for Inspectorial District No. 6 (counties of Antigonish and Guysboro.) For many years in various important positions Mr. McDonald has rendered valuable services to the educational interest of Eastern Nova Scotia. A. G. Macdonald, Professor of Mathematics in St. Francis Xavier College, Antigonish, has been appointed by the Council of Public Instruction, to the position thus rendered vacant. Mr. Macdonald's scholarship, early experience in Common School work, character, and executive ability, fully justify the wisdom of this selection.

John P. McLeod, B.A., and Daniel Murray, B.A., have been chosen by the Board of Governors of Dalhousie College as Tutors in Classics and Mathematics for the ensuing two years upon the Munro foundation. The new tutors won high distinction during their collegiate careers. Mr. Murray is at present Principal of the County Academy at Shelburne, where according to the press reports, an unusually excellent examination has been recently held.

Under recent legislation, Halifax High School is moving out upon a broader plane of existence and operations. It takes rank among the County Academies established by the Act passed at the recent