

children are convinced that their own teacher is, in any way, incompetent is the moment of defeat; for through that gap, as through a crevasse in a Mississippi levee, the flood of disorder pours in and drowns the land. As soon as possible, the principal should leave the room-teacher with full responsibility, or should cooperate in that friendly and stimulating way which will not undermine her influence with her pupils.

And, as soon as possible, the principal, man or woman, should have fixed periods of instruction with the higher classes of the school. Every bright child will be gratified by the compliment of being enrolled in the principal's class, and many a dull or mediocre scholar will do better work with the hope of reaching it. The last absurdity is reached when a famous teacher is placed over several hundred children and a dozen assistants to be relieved entirely from the work that has made him famous; too often, compelled to waste his energies in school book-keeping and matters of detail. All work of this kind should be reduced as much as possible in quantity, and either distributed among the entire corps or assigned to a principal's clerk; leaving the superior teacher and ruler of the house in a condition to do the best possible work in the organization, instruction, and discipline of the establishment.

On the other hand, a most destructive mistake is often made by shutting the principal entirely in the highest room, leaving no time for supervision, or even for the observation of what is going on below. Anybody can see how helpless the principal must be in this position; compelled to deal with material that has passed through a succession of rooms over which he has no control,—ignorant, in fact, of what is being done in any of them. The attempt to instruct such a class is a perpetual struggle with insurmountable difficulties, which, sooner or later, exhausts the patience and destroys the efficiency of the finest teacher. In too many of our smaller cities and in some of our chief towns this arrangement is made with a purpose. The assistant teachers are thrust in as a matter of favoritism, and, of course, resent supervision and work with a single eye to please their own trustee; the principal, often a woman, being engrossed by the same degrading occupation. The general superintendent is sometimes a weak man, kept in place by ambitious trustees on account of his weakness, that he may not interfere with the plans of ambitious members of the board; or a "Boss" who aspires to the management of every room and the personal supervision of every teacher. While this may be done in a place of moderate size, the attempt to handle the schools of a city even of 20,000 people in this way is a mistake which becomes more apparent with the increase of population.

Supervision is the backbone of every system of public schools. But no superintendent or principal can teach school over the head of the room-teacher. Neither can the room-teacher be wisely indulged in an "independence" that isolates her pupils and breaks up the harmony of the school-family. Here, as everywhere, we want "the golden mean."—*N. E. Journal of Education.*

A curious instance of what a simple change of comma can produce has been noticed of late. It runs as follows: Lord Palmerston then entered on his head, a white hat upon his feet, large but well-polished boots upon his brow, a dark cloud in his hand, his faithful walking-stick in his eye, a menacing glare saying nothing.

Boston's new sewerage system has been carried on under the able management of one of Boston's efficient engineers, Mr. Elliot C. Clarke, a son of Rev. James Freeman Clarke. The idea of the new system is that of intercepting the sewage of the city, and by a large tunnel carrying it under Dorchester bay to Moon island, where it is received in reservoirs and held until the ebbing tide will carry it far out to sea.

Notes and News.

THE CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL.—In the March number of the SCHOOL JOURNAL there are editorial articles on the Report of the Minister of Education and the Reports of the High School Inspectors and Moral Education. There is a large and varied selection of subjects bearing directly on the work of education, which teachers will find both interesting and profitable. In addition to the usual technical papers, Notes and News, an attractive feature will be found in "Readings and Recitations." The SCHOOL JOURNAL is a valuable aid to the teaching profession.—*Canada Presbyterian, March 26, 1884.*

The daily attendance at the Williamstown High School is about fifty, and the progress under the efficient head master, T. Scales, B.A., is very favorably mentioned in the local press.

We are glad to note that J. A. Clarke, M.A., B.Sc., late head master, Smith's Falls High School, is now convalescent. His medical advisers, however, prohibit his return to active duty in teaching for some time.

The Ingersoll Board of Education recently inspected the writing in the highest eight departments, and passed a resolution complimenting the principal, J. S. Deacon, on the marked success which has attended his efforts to improve the scholars in this important branch of study.

The Ingersoll Board of Education at its February meeting raised Mr. J. S. Deacon's salary to \$900. He has been principal of the school (P. S. and M. S.) 11 years.

Ingersoll Model School passed 44 pupils at the two H. S. Entrance Examinations for 1883.

The Barrie Gazette says that all the members of the Board of Education in that town "express themselves well pleased with the persevering industry of the head master; the accuracy and promptitude of the monthly reports of the schools are a great improvement." The head master referred to is Mr. T. O. Steele, late Principal of the Perth Public School.—*Perth Courier.*

At the last session of the Milton Model School there were 18 students in training, only two of whom were unsuccessful at the final examination. All the staff are re-engaged except Miss Bastelo, who was employed during the Model Session, and received \$90 for Model School work. The present teachers are,—Mr. H. Gray, head master, Mr. A. Crewson, and Misses Jarvis, Pattinson, and Andrews.

At the Convention of the Dominion Alliance recently held in Toronto, the following was one of the resolutions adopted:—That the convention hail with delight the efforts being made for the introduction of temperance text-books into our public schools, as thereby the youth of our country will be better instructed as to the nature and effect upon the human constitution of alcoholic liquors, and better qualified for the discharge of their duties as citizens of Canada; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Education desiring that gentleman and the Board of Education to introduce such a book into the public schools at as early a date as possible.

Cornelius Donovan, M.A., head master of the Separate Schools, Hamilton, has been appointed Inspector of Separate Schools for the Province, to act in conjunction with Inspector J. White, whose sphere was too extended and duties too arduous for effective work, including as it did the whole of Ontario.

The report of School Inspector Hughes for March gives the registered attendance at the Public Schools of Toronto at 12,271, the average attendance at 10,979, the percentage of average at 89.5, and the cases of lateness at 1,107. There were cases of corporal punishment at the schools as follows:—Dufferin, 12; Wellesley, 16; Ryerson, 8; Phoebe, 32; John street, 12; the Park School, 38; Victoria street, 7; Niagara, 24; Parliament, 7; George, 16; Church, 20; Elizabeth, 18; Brant, 14; Bathurst, 30; Hope, 22; Palace, 10; York, 14; Borden, 14; Givens, 12; Girl's Home, 8; Orphans' Home, 4; Chestnut, 4; Jesse Ketchum, 27; Cottingham, 4; Rose Avenue, 7. Seventy-four teachers were late an aggregate of 214 times, and at 19 schools the drill instructor was late 19 times.

Previous to the departure of Mr. D. J. Goggin from Port Hope to his new sphere of labor as principal of the Normal School in Winnipeg, the Board of School Trustees, teachers, and pupils united in showing their respect for him and appreciation of his