

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

CHRONICLE OF THE MONTH.

TORONTO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—The above Association held its half-yearly meeting in the theatre of the Normal School building on the 26th and 27th of September, under the able presidency of the Inspector. We say *able*, for Mr. Hughes has the excellent faculty in a chairman of keeping up interest in the discussion of any subject which he himself is master of. The business was begun by an address from Mr. McDonald, Head Master of Wellesley School, on "How to manage Writing Classes." He has given special attention to the subject of writing, and can therefore speak with authority upon any matter connected with it; besides he is himself an excellent scribe. It was generally agreed by the meeting that writing upon slates with *long* pencils might wisely be begun very early in the child's school life, and that both the printed letters and script should occupy his attention. When copy-book writing begins, each child in a class should write the same copy at the same time; and when the writing is a little advanced, that of each class should be done by counting the strokes by one of the scholars of the class. In advanced classes only the beginning or the ending of a line should be announced. There was perhaps a little too much tendency to formalism in Mr. McDonald's remarks. A little of this is very proper, and even necessary, in the management of school work, but if carried to excess it may become a serious evil by distracting attention unduly from proper school-room work.

The next business before the meeting was a lecture by Mr. R. F. Martin, Head Master of Parliament Street School, on the best method of teaching the Addition Table, which he exemplified by a class of his own

scholars. This was by far the most interesting and instructive of the whole proceedings. The speaker, in a modest and unpretentious manner, showed that by judicious teaching, a class of Second-Book scholars could be got to apply the Addition Table with as great facility as the Multiplication Table. It took the meeting by complete surprise to find a child of seven years of age add up columns of six and seven figures almost as fast as Mr. Martin could put them down, and much faster than most of the audience could add. We are but doing a public duty in calling the attention of the teachers of the country to Mr. Martin's system, which, if adopted and intelligently worked out, will forever banish the slow, uncertain, and too often grotesque manner of counting which prevails amongst children. It is based upon a faculty of the mind, which is an important factor in all intellectual progress,—the Association of Ideas.

Mr. Seston, one of the Music Teachers of the City Schools, took up the teaching of Music, and showed how persons without much special training might yet make the music lesson both instructive and interesting to children. He did this by taking the teachers present as a class and giving them simple exercises upon the diatonic scale. He uses numbers to represent the sounds, in preference to either syllables or letters.

The last address on Friday afternoon was on "Fourth-Book Lessons for Admission into High Schools," by Mr. S. Hughes, of the Collegiate Institute. A good deal of attractive and useful information was given upon the lessons which he took up, but the subject was not handled with that practical skill which Mr. Hughes is noted for in the school