

THE  
EDUCATIONAL RECORD  
OF THE  
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

---

---

No. 11.

NOVEMBER, 1899.

VOL. XIX.

---

---

**Articles : Original and Selected.**

**ENGLISH FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.\***

The evolution of the elementary school curriculum has been very largely influenced by the law of supply and demand. Progress in the direction of an ideal course of study has been rapid indeed, but those subjects seeming to be most useful have always been first to force their way to the front. Arithmetic for instance has long been regarded as important, not only because of its practical value, but for the mental discipline it affords. Accordingly we find that great labor and skill have been devoted to searching out the best methods of teaching that subject.

We pay a deserved tribute to the spirit of our times when we say that other subjects than those which may be regarded as useful in the most primitive sense of the word are now being raised to their proper dignity.

In years gone by no special stress was laid upon the teaching of the English language in most elementary schools, on this side of the Atlantic at least, and naturally the training many pupils received in that subject was insufficient.

Experience has shown that it is unreasonable to expect a pupil to speak good English and write good English as a

---

\* Paper read by Mr. M. C. Hopkins, at the Teachers' Convention, October, 1899.