

Mr. G. J. Oulton, principal of the High School at Moncton, and late president of the Summer School of Science, has obtained leave of absence to pursue a post-graduate course in Natural Science at McGill University.

Rev. A. P. McLellan has been appointed rector of St. Dunstan's College, Charlottetown, in place of Rev. Peter Curran, resigned.

The New Brunswick Normal School re-opened on Thursday, Sept. 1st, with the largest attendance, it is said, in its history, the number of students being 250, representing every county in the province except Madawaska. York sends the largest number, 36, closely followed by Carleton with 33, while Sunbury and Victoria contribute the smallest numbers, each sending five students.

Two new appointments have been made to the Science faculty of McGill University during the vacation,—Ernest Rutherford, M. A., B. Sc., of Trinity College, Cambridge, to the W. C. McDonald chair of Physics, and Dr. James Wallace Walker, of University College, London, to the W. C. McDonald chair of Chemistry.

Mr. S. G. Carter Troop, M. A., a graduate of Trinity University, has been appointed lecturer in English literature at Chicago University. Mr. Troop is a native of Nova Scotia, and is well known in Halifax and St. John, where he resided some time ago. He is a brother of Rev. G. Osborne Troop, M. A., the well known Anglican clergyman of Montreal, who was for several years stationed at St. John, N. B.

Of the 579 teachers employed in P. E. I. in 1897, 247 were female teachers. There were, therefore, 85 more male teachers than female teachers employed. The number of male teachers has been gradually increasing during the last ten years, and the present indications are that ere long a very large majority of the teachers of the Island Province will be male teachers.

Inspector McCormac is endeavoring to form an educational institute for the Eastern Inspectorate of P. E. I.

The New York *World* asks editorially, "Who is the 'dull boy'?" and answers: "To the Greek professor he is the boy who cannot learn Greek. To the professor of mathematics he is the boy who cannot learn calculus. To the whole literary or classical faculty he is the poor fool whose brain will only absorb facts of physics and chemistry. To the witty man he is that awful creature who sits solemn over the latest joke or epigram. To the serious man he is the laughing jackass who persists in treating life as a comedy. In brief, the 'dull boy' is the square peg whom somebody is trying to fit into a round hole."

RECENT BOOKS.

In the September number of the N. Y. *Educational Review* our own Prof. Davidson reviews the histories by Roberts, by Calkins, and by Clement, which were written for the Dominion prize for the best history of Canada. Mr. Davidson believes that the prizes were awarded in the inverse order of merit. Of the successful book he says: "It is the embodiment of all that a school history should not be. . . . It is crowded with details such as everyone makes haste to forget; and its whole conception is in defiance of all modern educational ideals. It is exactly the book to put into the hands of the pupils of a teacher who makes the pupils learn history by heart. There is not a touch of imagination or a glimmer of style within the boards of the volume. It is indeed fairly accurate in a deadly dull sort of way."

"Professor Roberts has written . . . with the eye of a poet and the charm of a novelist. It is a matter of doubt whether avowed history has ever been written so well for school boys and school girls. Children, to whom it has been given, have read it through with the enthusiasm which they usually reserve for Henty and their other favorite writers; and older people have been known to read it almost at a sitting. It is written in a style which, though here and there it betrays evidences of haste, is remarkably brilliant and sustained. . . . With a true artist's instinct he seizes upon the salient points of the history and makes them the central points of his narrative, and the result is a living picture of Canada's life and growth. . . . His treatment of the story of Mme. La Tour, the most dramatic episode in Canadian history, gives us a short story of unrivalled color and brilliancy. We seem to live again in the stormy ages of intrigue and violence. . . . There is no overloading with dates and events, but the historic accuracy is beyond question. . . . The result is so good that one could wish that school books were more frequently written by men of letters."

"Mr. Calkin's book, while, like Professor Roberts', unsuccessful, is also much better than the history which receives the award. It is a careful, conscientious piece of work, scrupulously accurate, well, though not brilliantly written, and well suited for ordinary school purposes. It would be unfair to compare it with Prof. Roberts' history, because it belongs to an entirely different class. But in its class it is a piece of good workmanship, and, compared with Mr. Clement's book, an altogether admirable production."

[Mr. Davidson's estimate of these histories will meet with approval from all who believe that the first essential of a good school history is capacity to interest. No matter how thrilling the events, or how picturesque the scenes, or how attractive the actors, the story, unless written by a master of style, will not awaken even a feeble interest. The valuable thing in a history lesson is not the fact, but the impression, which the child carries away. For it is from history and biography that the child gets his best lessons in patriotism and morality.

WALTER C. MURRAY.]

The Macmillans have added a historical comedy¹ of the reign of Queen Anne to their Foreign School Classics, and a charm-

¹SCRIBE: *Le Verre d'eau*. Edited by F. F. Roget, formerly of St. Andrew's University, London. Macmillan & Co. 1898. Pp. xiii, 146. Price, 2s.