

which, with the short discussion that followed, and the resolutions afterwards passed in connection with it, shows that the teaching profession is thoroughly alive to the importance of this subject, and is quite prepared to go to all reasonable lengths in advancing it.

The subject of Uniform Examinations for Promotion in our Public Schools was, in the absence of Dr. Kelly, Inspector of Brant, who was to have read a paper on it, brought before the Association in a neat address by Mr. Carson, one of the Inspectors of Middlesex; the chief outcome of the discussion upon it was the passage of a resolution declaring the fitness of the entrance examination to the High Schools as a means of promotion from the fourth to the fifth classes in the public schools. This is the extent to which the meeting was prepared to go in the way of uniform provincial examinations for promotion, a very decided opinion being expressed against uniformity for other classes being extended beyond each Inspectoral district—the bugbear, centralization, standing in the way of provincial uniformity. In the evening Professor Young read carefully prepared lecture on the “Order of the Development of the Faculties in Relation to Education” before a crowded and very appreciative audience. His opinions in the main run parallel with those of Bain, as enunciated in his book on “Education as a Science;” in several minor points he differs from him, however, as for instance in the age when ordinary school work should commence, the much less importance he attaches to the cultivation of the memory, and in his higher estimate of Kindergarten teaching. His opinion diverges widely from that of Dr. McLellan in regard to the value of mathematical studies, and he made a full tilt at his hobby, the “Unitary Method in Arithmetic,” upholding the value of proportion which it is intended to displace.

The Thursday afternoon session was devoted to a humorous paper by Mr. Brown, Inspector of Peterborough, on Physical Education in Schools; and to a paper read by Mr. Hughes, Inspector of Toronto, on the question—Is Compulsory Uniformity of Text-

Books desirable? His answer was that it is not. He argued that by throwing the supply of text-books open to competition, greater excellence would be secured in their preparation, and the cost would be diminished, amongst other ways, by binding up as much of the contents of a book, an arithmetic for instance, as a class has to study. Thus the public would be benefited, and, what he apparently forgot, though the tenor of his discourse indicated that it was present to his mind, the enterprising and pushing publisher would prosper.

The evening of Thursday was devoted to an address, eloquent and edifying in its character, by Dr. McVicar, of Montreal.

During each morning of the Convention the High School Masters, the Inspectors, and the Public School Teachers met in their respective rooms, and discussed matters pertaining to their sections. In these, perhaps, the most useful business is done, because it is business that intimately concerns the successful working of each part of our school machinery. The High School Programme of Study, Modifications of the Intermediate, Model School Work, Phonic Reading—these are the titles of some of the subjects laid down in the programme for Section work.

The meeting was, on the whole, a harmonious one,—the only decided difference of opinion appearing on the election of President. It has hitherto been customary for the Association to select some distinguished educationist outside of its own ranks to act as President. It was determined this year to choose one from the members of the Association itself, and the choice of the meeting, contrary to the recommendation of the nominating committee, fell upon Mr. R. Alexander, Principal of the Galt Model School. We think no better selection could have been made. Mr. Alexander, twenty years ago, was mainly instrumental in founding the Association; he has been a most useful member of it ever since, and has proved himself an excellent man of business in the conduct of its meetings; he is besides a man of good standing as a public school teacher in the country.

The Convention, which must be looked