

of names enrolled was not so large as it was last year, but the average attendance was much larger. As an intimation had been made in the *Record* previous to the holding of the Institutes that mere honorary members were not to be desired at such meetings, this had no doubt much to do with the absence of holiday seekers, and with the general earnest tone of those in attendance. The attendance in point of regularity and punctuality was all that could be desired,—an assertion borne out by the fact that though no less than six sessions were required in order to entitle any member to a certificate, nearly all the members obtained certificates. As has been said, this is the third series of Institutes held in the province, and no one can doubt that the devotion of the gentlemen who have engaged in the work is not labour lost. This year a special certificate in the form of an illuminated card was presented to those members who had been present at the Institutes of 1884, 1885, 1886. Perhaps it were well that school commissioners in appointing teachers to the schools under their charge should take some cognizance of the certificates. As far as can be seen, these annual gatherings are having an important influence upon the school-work of the sections of the province in which they have been held, and so far has their influence for good been observed that some steps ought to be taken whereby the work accomplished by them may have some legal recognition. Those teachers who have had sufficient interest in the work of school teaching to attend these Institutes, ought surely to have some special classification sanctioned by law or special regulation. The certificates such teachers receive form a recommendation in themselves, but the time has come when attendance at these Institutes should be given some legal value. Candidates for first-class elementary diplomas should have a certain amount of professional training before they are entitled to receive such diplomas, and now that the work of the Teachers' Institutes of Quebec has been successful, perhaps it would be well to make attendance at these annual Institutes one of the conditions on which a first class elementary diploma would in future be granted. There could be a second and third class elementary diploma to be decided by a literary examination, until such time as the schools of the province could be supplied with