

trained for it. We would not think of employing in our homes a surgeon who had never walked the hospital wards, then why should we place our children, for the greater part of the tenderest and most susceptible portion of their lives, under the care and supervision of teachers devoid of experience or special training for the work.

These Conventions are a grand step in the right direction, and, were it possible, the committee or department should insist on every qualified teacher not only attending regularly but taking a normal course of training as well.

The remuneration of the teacher. We all know it is too small, far too small, in consideration of the services we *ought* to receive in return. The district school teachers should receive at least fifteen dollars a month after paying for their board. The department very kindly fix the salaries of the secretary-treasurers, why not fix those of the teachers as well. For when times are hard and competition is great, and teachers are plentiful, school boards are not apt to advance salaries very much. Let the salary be reasonable, if not generous, and then let the standard of the teacher be raised accordingly, thus teaching will become a profession and will not be brought into competition with other kinds of labor; its market will not be glutted from the mistaken notion that it is easier work, less menial, and can be undertaken by almost anybody with very little study, trouble, pains or brains.

The course of study. This is a vexed question and one that gives rise to a good deal of complaining in our streets. As I am not dealing with the higher schools I shall pass over the Model and Academic course, the Elementary course being moreover, to my mind, the most important of the three, because too often it is the only one to which the large majority of the children of the land, especially the farmers' sons, have access, the colleges and the higher schools being frequented mostly by the favored few. This is why the elementary school should be made as efficient as possible, the best teachers to be obtained employed, and the course of study made as comprehensive and profitable as may be. It should contain everything in a general way that is necessary to conduct the ordinary affairs of life. Business principles and the science of agriculture, some knowledge of physiology and hygiene should be taught, while history, philosophy and science, should not be entirely discarded. The day for teaching simply the three R's in our country schools has passed away, and while we would not expect pupils to be rooted and grounded in all these subjects, still there should be