

importance it regretted that it had been unable to accomplish anything.

The report of the Pension Commissioners was presented by Dr. Robins. It stated that the total expenditure had been \$33,011.58 which exceeded the revenue by \$2,701.87. On the other hand, extra receipts amounting to \$2,904.09 which went into the capitalized fund, had raised the total amount at the disposal of the fund to \$178,184.04. With regard to the pensioners, the number of teachers pensioned off on account of old age was 132, and they received \$22,442.20, or an average of \$170 each. Those retired on account of illness numbered 232, receiving \$9,138.39, an average of \$39.39 each. The amount paid to the widows of officers of primary instruction had been \$1,137.44, or an average \$97.55 each. There had participated in the advantages of the pension fund 376 persons, who had received from it an amount of \$32,751.23, or an average of \$87.10 each. Of the pensioners 83 were men, receiving \$18,169.94, an average of \$218.91 each. The women numbered 281, and received \$13,410.65, an average of \$47.72 each. The law, it was stated, did not sufficiently guard against fraudulent retirement, and it was recommended that in cases of doubt a series of questions adapted to the alleged circumstances, as suggested by the consulting physician, be sent to the applicant, and that no pension be paid unless the replies were satisfactory.

The report of the delegate to the Protestant Committee was given *viva voce* by Dr. Robins, the Association's representative, who in the course of his address referred to the duties devolving upon the Committee and the manner in which these duties were performed. In particularizing, he referred to the grant given to the Morrin College and the way two of the members had neglected to be present at meetings of the Committee. Dr. Robins then read a paper on "Elementary Arithmetic," and addressed himself to show how deficient were the methods of teaching the Multiplication Table. He said that it was no training to a child's mind to get the table up by rote,—by mere dint of repeating and repeating the results of each line of the table till the answer came as from a parrot. However it was taught in schools it was not well and intelligently taught. The table was made a mere load on the memory without any exercise of the reason, without any chance of thinking and seeing the why and wherefore. The first thing to do was to get the child's mind thoroughly familiar with the primary numbers, one to ten, and to have the child understand