

School Library Returns.

Superior Schools.:—The regular (new) library return must be made by all County Academies and Class "A" School Sections, although they are not entitled to participation in the "Rural School Library" grant, in order to entitle them to participation in the superior grants they have been accustomed to receive. The Education Department must report on *all* the school libraries, *Superior* as well as *Rural*; and the form for each is the same.

Rural Schools.:—The returns from libraries in *rural* schools must *also* accompany the regular annual return, and have received the certification of the Inspector that the law has been fully complied with.

Library Books free of Duty.:—The following is a paragraph in a letter addressed to the Superintendent of Education by John McDougald, Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa, on the 30th March, 1904:—

"I beg to advise you that Books specially imported for the Libraries of Schools and being the property of the recognized authorities of such libraries, and in no case the property of individuals, may be admitted to free entry, under the provisions of tariff item 467, upon affidavit of the recognized officials of such libraries as to the intended use of the books."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Commercial Course.

The Halifax School Board has taken the lead in availing itself of the privilege to add optional subjects to the regular high school course. Commercial law, economics, civics, accounts, stenography (Sir Isaac Pitman's Phonography), and typewriting, are provided for with the authorization of the Education Department. Pupils taking the Provincial three years' high school course will be entitled to take the commercial subjects as a fourth year's course instead of the Provincial Grade XII Course.

The Crown Royal Copy Books.

The publishers of this series containing the "Civil Service Style" of sloping writing, have reduced its price since it was prescribed from *five* cents to *four* cents per book. This is an agreeable change from the former price of *seven* cents insisted upon by publishers of the sloping system from time immemorial.

English Analysis.

The use of the method of indicating the analysis of sentences by simple markings as shown in "Lessons in English" saves a great deal of time in doing school exercises, and at examination. It also has the advantage of being very clear when the signs become familiar.

Good Manners.

The importance of cultivating good manners in the school is very great. Attention is called to the general prescription on this point, and teachers are asked to make a careful study of the problem. There are cases, it is feared, where the teacher has no adequate conception of either the nature or value of good manners. The suspension of license for a year or so may be the best way to teach such a party. As good manners is a very essential part of the public school, rudeness in the teacher, or any conduct tending to develop or to encourage bad manners of any kind, is sufficient grounds for suspension of license. The school room is no place for the boor.