

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

The indifference of teachers to the instruction given them at the normal school, often surprises me. Some of them regard it as all very well in theory, but as for practice, well—"It is too much trouble to carry into effect," or "my own way is the best," and after all, "my own way" is usually the least troublesome way. So after all it is a question of laziness.

Why is training beneficial? Because it is the product of the best experience, and therefore produces the best results in the shortest time. The importance of well balanced and workable time tables is no doubt insisted upon at the normal school. Why is it then, that so many teachers totally disregard this as soon as they begin work? It is true they may have a piece of paper on the wall which purports to be a time table, but for all practical purposes it may as well not be there. In the same way the student teachers no doubt have impressed upon them the fact that the alphabetical and memoriter systems are dead. Yet many of them are found carrying out both to a greater or less degree. Sounds of letters and word building neglected, and Canadian history and natural science, or notes upon them, committed to memory, word for word.

If we are not succeeding in all districts with tree planting, arbor day is certainly a success in many in the way of fencing and clearing school grounds. I would like to say a word about fences. It seems to me, in the first place, that the school fence is the concern of the district and not of the adjacent land holders. And further, that while the grounds are district property, they should in no sense be regarded as commons. The grounds of many districts are fenced on three sides, and the front left open, often it is urged, to prevent the snow from collecting there. This difficulty can usually be obviated by building an open fence or having two large gates which can be removed in winter, so as to allow draught enough to carry the snow through the yard. In a few cases where the grounds are fenced, some of the rate-payers have assumed proprietary airs as to turn their cows in for pasturage and safe keeping at night.

What kind of fence is most suitable? In my opinion a close board fence from 3 to 3½ feet high, is the most durable, and makes the best appearance. The boards should be planed on one side at least, which adds very little to the cost, and painted white. The objection to this fence is the snow; but I think that can be overcome in the manner stated above. Plain wire run through posts is a fair fence for the front.

Why do not teachers set out sweet-briar, honey-suckle, lilac and such shrubs to a greater extent? They are not difficult to grow, and are beautiful each year as well as permanent. I think it would also be a good plan if the wood ashes made each year were saved to fertilize the grounds and plants or trees. Some of the land is very poor, and the whole of it would be benefitted by fertilizers. There are some out-door roses, such as the cabbage, which can be quite easily grown and amply repay all trouble. There will be many discouragements met with in the way of destruction and theft, but we must be patient and educate toward a better sentiment. Get the pupils and parents interested, and soon every person in the district will be ready to stand guard over the school grounds.

If any teacher is about to have better black-board surface, let me recommend the slates. They can be procured in almost any convenient size; and while they may be a trifle more expensive, they are the cheapest in the end, being unsurpassed to work upon and requiring no repairs. Use your influence to have them and no one will regret it.

For the REVIEW.]

Notes on English.

SOME CHIPS FROM A CLASS'S WORK ON "CORIOLANUS."

"Struck Corioli like a planet," says Cominius of the young Roman hero's daring deed in entering the hostile city single handed. And in the last scene of the play, when Aufidius calls him "Boy," and when Coriolanus knows full well that his angry retort must plunge the swords of the enraged Volscians in his breast, he tells them to their faces

"If you have writ your annals true, 'tis there,
That like an eagle in a dove-cote, I
Fluttered your Volscians in Corioli:
Alone I did it."

When reading the account of the Corioli feat, one of the class asked why the Volscians did not kill Coriolanus when they had him shut in all alone with them,

"Himself alone,
To answer all the city."

This is what Titus Lartius assumes must have happened, when he hears of his young friend's rashness, and he proceeds to pronounce a funeral oration in the form of an apostrophe:

"Thou wast a soldier
Even to Cato's wish, not fierce and terrible
Only in strokes; but, with thy grim looks and
The thunder-like percussion of thy sounds,
Thou madest thine enemies shake."

But such men are not so easily killed, especially by a cowed and terrified mob. When General Scarlett