

place. The length of the course varies from one to four years. In some cases, an elementary course and an advanced course are provided, and members are at liberty to take up the one or the other; in others, the course consists, first, of compulsory subjects and books which all members must take, and optional subjects. Each of these various plans has its points of excellence, and we shall have to watch the practical working of these schemes in order to decide upon their relative merits.

The following books, which have been adopted by the New Jersey State Reading Circle as part of their course, which is to extend over three years, will give a fair idea of the work generally laid down for these circles. They are arranged under three heads: *Professional, Science and General.*

#### I.—PROFESSIONAL.

1. History.—Quick's Educational Reformers; Hailman's History of Pedagogy.
2. Principles.—Tate's Philosophy of Education; Joseph Payne's Lectures on Education; Fitch's Lectures on Teaching; Spencer's Education.
3. Method.—Page's Theory and Practice of Teaching; Parker's Talks on Teaching; Trumbull's Teachers and Teaching.

#### II.—SCIENCE.

1. Physiology, Walker's.
2. Psychology, Sully's—abridged edition.

#### III.—GENERAL.

1. The Chautauquan.
2. An Outline of English Language.
3. Some Masterpieces in the English and American Literature.

Two plans have been adopted for recognizing the work done by faithful members of the circles. First, examinations are provided at the end of each year's course upon the work presented for the year, and diplomas are issued to the successful candidates. Secondly, no examinations are held, but upon application from a member, signed by the manager of his local circle, certifying that the applicant has faithfully followed the course of reading, a certificate to that effect is granted. In some instances, both of these methods are adopted, certificates being issued upon duly certified applications, and diplomas upon examination.

The practical working of the local circles, the unit of the whole organization presents some points of interest. It is the duty of the board of directors to provide the course of reading, to name the text-books, to arrange with the publishers for the books required, at greatly reduced rates, to break up the course into monthly parts, to arrange for notes, outlines, analyses and quotations upon the work included in these monthly parts to be published from month to month in the educational journal of the state for the guidance of members of the circle. With these instructions in hand, the members of the local circle gather at the home of one of the members if possible, determine the night of meeting—every week,