

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

NORTHUMBERLAND.—The Teachers of this county held a successful association meeting in the Collegiate Institute, Cobourg, on the 5th and 6th of October, the President, Mr. G. Dowler, in the chair.

The Association proceeded to discuss whether it would be in the interest of the profession in this county to continue the present system of semi-annual meetings, or to substitute therefor yearly meetings, and monthly or quarterly Township Associations. The question was finally laid over. The new P. S. programme was severely criticized by Mr. D. Robertson, whose essay on the subject elicited frequent applause. He was requested to submit it for publication. "School Hygiene" was discussed in a thoroughly practical manner by Mr. H. M. Hicks, B.A., of Colborne. The speaker enumerated among other causes of ill health to teachers and pupils a lack of cheerfulness on the part of the teacher; low school sites and the proximity of these to stagnant water; improper modes of lighting, heating and ventilation; defective seating accommodation for the sake of economy (?); sending children to school at too early an age, to their physical and mental detriment.

Mr. Geo. Kirk next illustrated in an interesting manner his method of presenting "Fourth Class Arithmetic." Mr. John McColl addressed the meeting on "Dull Pupils, etc." He attributed much of the dullness to artificial rather than to natural causes—improper ventilation of school rooms, irregularity of attendance and the foolish custom of sending pupils to school at a tender age *in order to get them out of the way*. In the evening Mr. J. L. Hughes, I. P. S., Toronto, delivered a lecture on the "Kindergarten."

Friday.—"Literature for Third and Fourth Classes" was introduced by Mr. D. E. Stephenson. Mr. W. S. Ellis, B.Sc., next gave numerous valuable "Short Methods in Arithmetic." An excellent paper in History by Mr. R. Ferguson, B.A., was, in the absence of that gentleman, read by Mr. Odium, B.A. A vote of thanks was tendered to each, and Mr. Ferguson was requested to allow his essay to be published. The sum of \$30 was voted to aid teachers in

procuring the Toronto Educational Journals. The following are the officers elected for the ensuing year:—Mr. W. S. Ellis, B.A., B.Sc., President; H. M. Hicks, B.A., Vice-President; D. E. Stephenson, Sec.-Treasurer. Committee of Management—Messrs. McHenry, M.A., Dowler, Ash, Robertson, and Scarlett, I. P. S. In accordance with a notice of motion given by Mr. J. W. Black at the previous meeting in Brighton, it was resolved:—That any person convicted of supplanting another teacher, or of aiding, abetting or in any way countenancing the same, shall be declared ineligible for membership in this association. Mr. Geo. Kirk, H. M., Model School, Cobourg, gave notice of motion for the reconsideration at the next convention of the resolution passed at the last meeting of the association, recommending the authorization and adoption of Gage's new series of Readers. "Mood" in English Grammar was ably treated by Mr. D. C. McHenry, M.A., Principal of Collegiate Institute, Cobourg. As Mr. McHenry is a gentleman of advanced ideas and high literary attainments, his rendering of this subject was listened to with deep interest. He was requested to allow his address to be published. One of the interesting features of the programme was a discussion on the "Relation of Trustees to the Progress of Schools," introduced by Mr. Andrew Black, chairman of the Cobourg High School Board. The speaker believed that financial embarrassment was a serious injury to the prosperity of any school. Teachers should be well paid, paid promptly, and as he thought in quarterly instalments. It was impossible for teachers to take kindly to their duties while paid grudgingly, or while suffering pecuniary embarrassment occasioned by a tardy settlement of their salary. Mr. C. C. Field, chairman of the Cobourg P. S. Board, supported Mr. Black's views and thought that the visiting of schools was an important duty of trustees. They should secure the best teachers available for the work required, pay them well, and *retain* them. Frequent change of teachers is extremely injurious to the prosperity of a school. The proceedings closed with an eloquent address on "The Teacher's True Aim," by the Rev. Hugh Pedley, B.A., of Cobourg.