

FOREIGN NOTES.

There is a strong agitation going on in England in favor of teaching girls to swim. The matter is being urged on the notice of School Boards.

Four hundred female students will enter the University of London this fall.

New York city has a private swimming school for girls, which is quite liberally patronized. A handsome gold medal was awarded the other day for proficiency.

Each inhabitant in the United States pays \$2.02 for the support of the public schools, and \$1.39 for military purposes. These two items of expenditure in other countries of the world are as follows: Prussia, 51 cents and \$2.29; Austria, 34 cents and \$1.39; France, 29 cents and \$1.50; Italy, 13 cents and \$1.57; England and Wales, 66 cents and \$3.86; Switzerland, 88 cents and \$1.00.

Public schools of St. Louis show an increased enrolment of 3,000 pupils over last year, in a total of 32,000. There are nine colored schools, which exhibit an increase of 200 in a total of 576.

There are about 24,000 common schools in the empire of Japan, with an average attendance of 2,000,000. The course of studies in these schools is somewhat similar to those in America; they have been largely modeled on the American and German plans. There are 216 high schools, of which 103 are specially devoted to the study of foreign languages; the total attendance averages 12,000, but this system has not yet come into general favor. One of the most efficacious helps are the normal schools, 90 in number, which are educating and sending out a new class of teachers. They have at present an attendance of about 8000. Special lecturers have also been appointed to instruct the present common-school teachers, and they have commenced to hold teachers' institutes throughout the empire. The teachers, of which there are about 45,000 of all grades, are licensed by the Government Board of Education.

The Milford, New Hampshire, papers speak as follows of the schools under the supervision of Hon. J. W. Simonds; "These changes have been radical. The old and useless has been lopped off; the new and practical has been introduced. In fact our entire school system has been overhauled and reconstructed. We question whether the history of modern education will show a more thorough overturning and rebuilding of a school system than ours, since our schools have been under the charge of Superintendent Simonds. The beauty of this work is, it has been accomplished in a quiet and harmonious manner. The School Board may be assured that the people will approve of the wise and judicious plan they have pursued. The language of a taxpayer and father, who says that he 'cannot afford to have his children use an inferior book or pursue a course behind the times, that he has only one chance to school them, and that he wants the best books and the best course, expresses the popular sentiment.'

Teachers' Associations.

The publishers of the JOURNAL will be obliged to Inspectors and Secretaries of Teachers' Associations if they will send for publication programmes of meetings to be held, and brief accounts of meetings held.

NORTH PETH.—A meeting of the Association will be held in the Central School, Stratford, on Friday and Saturday, October 25th and 26th, 1878. Programme:—1. Approved Methods of Teaching, G. W. Ross, Inspector of Model Schools; 2. Teaching of English, J. M. Buchan, M.A., Inspector High Schools; 3. Examinations, Wm. Alexander, Inspector Public Schools; 4. Habits of Study, P. S. Davis, B.A., Stratford High School; 5. Means of Discipline, H. Dickenson, County Model School; 6. Professional Study and Reading, Wm. Rothwell, Principal Listowel Central School; 7. Method of Conducting Recitations, G. W. Ross; 8. The Moral Element in Education, Rev. J. E. Croly, M.A., Millbank; 9. Election of Officers; 10. Report of Committee on Constitution; 11. Question Box.

Every teacher in the Riding is expected by the Public School Inspector to be present, and to come prepared to discuss the preceding programme. Schools to be closed on Friday. Exercises to commence at 9 a.m. each day. An entertainment, consisting of Addresses, Readings, &c., will be given on the evening of the first day.

JAS. CROZIER, B.A., President.

H. DICKENSON, Secretary, Stratford P.O.

TORONTO.—The semi-annual meeting of the Toronto Teachers' Association was held in the Public Hall of the Normal School on Friday, September 27. Mr. James Hughes, President, occupied the chair. The first subject, "How to Teach Composition," was opened by Mr. George K. Powell, who read a very practical paper on the subject. A profitable discussion followed, which led to a resolution being adopted requesting the School Board to adopt Swinton's Language Lessons as a text-book. Mr. Adam Morrison followed with a very practical address on map sketching, which he illustrated in a most simple and satisfactory manner. The afternoon session was opened by a very eloquent and exhaustive

address on the "Responsibility of Teachers for Control and Influence." Their great responsibility consisted in the fact that they were forming habits in their pupils by control; habits of action by influence; habits of thought. Biology had shown that any particular action was effected by an operation in an automatic part of the brain structure; that operation repeated developed that part; and the result of the development was a tendency to perform the action. Thus the development of a faculty in a child sometimes became so great that it was exercised independent of the direction of the will. This, in other words, was force of habit, and it indicated the vast responsibility of teachers engaged in the work of fashioning and moulding youthful minds. One important habit that should be developed by control was an implicit submission to constituted authority, for self-reliance in the man grew out of obedience in the boy, whereas waywardness and self-will tended to create the spirit which made a man both a tyrant and a sycophant. Influence implied an internal moving in contrast to external restraint implied by control. It was the direct operation of mind upon mind, either by precept, example, or magnetic sympathy, and it should be remembered that influence was exercised, whether we intended it or not. There was no such thing as morality apart from religion—from the fundamental theistic idea of a controlling being to whom we are responsible for our conduct. A teacher must be up with the times—with the rapid developments in all branches of knowledge, with the political changes, and with the intensely critical spirit that prevailed. A teacher should endeavor to comprehend the nature and mental tendencies of his pupils, else there was great danger of establishing mistaken notions and wrong habits. The spirit of generous competition among pupils, he believed, was productive of good when not carried to excess. In conclusion, he eloquently dwelt upon some of the encouragements which should sustain teachers in their arduous task. After a brief intermission, Mr. F. F. Manly, M.A., of the Toronto Collegiate Institute, read a paper and gave some black-board illustrations of various methods of teaching vulgar and decimal fractions, for which the thanks of the Association were voted to him. The meeting then adjourned till the evening. In the evening J. M. Buchan, M.A., High School Inspector, delivered his admirable lecture on "Poetry and Pontics" to a most appreciative audience.

Official Department.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

"The Board of Trustees of any School District is hereby empowered to provide from the School Funds under its control Prizes not exceeding a first, second or third prize, in any School Term, for each School or Department, and according to such conditions and regulations as may be prescribed by the Board of Education, provided that no such Prize shall be awarded in respect of proficiency in particular subjects of the School course, or the discharge of particular School duties."—41 Vict., cap. 35, sec. 10.

In pursuance of the above enactment of the Legislature, the Board of Education has been pleased to prescribe the following conditions and regulations—which are to be carefully observed by Boards of Trustees and Teachers—respecting the offering and awarding of the School Prizes therein authorized:—

1. The offer of the Prizes and the conditions of their award set forth below (in Sections 2 and 3) shall be announced to the School, or department, on or before the first day on which it may be in Session in any Term.

2. The following shall be regarded as the STANDARD for every member of the School:—Prompt attendance at each School sitting; unexceptional conduct while subject to the Teacher's supervision, whether in the School-room or elsewhere; industrious application in the discharge of every School duty; and excellence of scholarship in the subjects of prescribed study, according to the pupil's assignments in the course of instruction pursued in the School.

3. The Teacher shall assign a fixed numerical value to the above Standard, say (5 or 10) for each half day (or for each day), to be available in respect of those pupils only who are present; and the Teacher shall according to his best judgment determine and record at the time what attainment is to be made for any half-day (or day) from this standard figure on account of tardiness, improper conduct, want of application, or imperfect scholarship. At the close of the calendar month the Teacher shall make entry in the School Register (page 6 or 10) of the sum of the standard figures (or parts of them) retained for the month by each pupil, and the aggregate of these monthly entries shall be regarded as the pupil's School Standing for the Term.

4. At the close of the Term the Teacher shall present a written Report, under his signature, to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, stating (1) the names, with the School Standing for the Term annexed to each, of the pupils having first, second and third positions; and (2) the name of any pupil who, while a member of the School, or department, was unavoidably absent, and whose actual average daily standing being allowed for such days of absence, not exceeding five in any case,