

proper method, then, consists in presenting to the child's mind the quality of knowledge suitable to its state of development. The ordinary method disregards this principle, and is frequently just the reverse of this practice. In arithmetic, for example, children are taught to repeat rules. Now a rule is a generalization from many simple facts, and to a child ignorant of these facts conveys no idea whatever, although it may repeat it by an effort of memory. By the new method, the idea of number is made familiar to the child by appealing to the faculties that are already developed, that is, by showing them objects—marbles, pebbles, &c. When the idea of concrete number is attained, they are led to dispense with the objects and deal with figures which are symbols, and with rules which are abstract.

Miscellaneous Resolutions.—It was moved by Mr. Young, and seconded by Mr. Watson, that Messrs McCabe, McMurphy, and Dr. Ormiston, be a committee to provide for the publication of the minutes, addresses, &c.—Carried.

Agricultural Chemistry.—It was moved by Mr. Flood, and seconded by Mr. Hodgson, that in view of the great importance of a practical knowledge of Agricultural Chemistry in our Schools, we recommend that a bonus of \$5 be given from the Educational Fund to purchase books or apparatus for every school in which a class is efficiently taught in this respect.—Carried.

School Drill.—Moved by Mr. H. Reazin and seconded by Mr. McCabe, "That in the opinion of this convention the government should afford facilities by which the grammar school masters may, during their vacations, gain a knowledge of military drill to enable them to give a course of military instruction to their pupils."—Carried unanimously.

Military Training.—It was moved by Mr. Frood, and seconded by Mr. Anderson, that whereas this Association has recommended the introduction of military training into our common schools, be it resolved that we recommend that a bonus of \$10 be given by the Government to each school in which a squad of ten or more male pupils are efficiently trained in primary military movements.—Carried.

It was moved by Mr. Young, and seconded by Mr. Buchanan, that the travelling expenses of the Board of Directors to the preliminary business meeting usually held at New Year's, be paid.—Carried.

It was moved by Mr. McGann, and seconded by Mr. Young, that Rule of order No. 8 be amended as follows:—That after the word "personalities" the following words be added: "And any member once reprimanded for indulgence in improper language, and persevering in an expression of such remarks, be liable to public censure or expulsion, as the Association may determine."—Carried.

Mr. McAllister gave notice of motion that article 8 of the Constitution be amended by putting "three" in place of six Vice-Presidents.

It was moved by Mr. Young, and seconded by Mr. Anderson, that we recommend that worn-out teachers should be placed on the same footing as pensioned servants in the civil service.—Carried.

Election of Officers.—The following gentlemen were elected to fill their respective offices, viz:—President, the Rev. Dr. Ormiston, Hamilton; first vice-President, Mr. Wm. McCabe, L.L.B., principal of the grammar school, Oshawa; 2nd do, Mr. Robert Alexander, principal of common school, Newmarket; 3rd do, Mr. Anderson, principal of the Park Street school, Toronto; 4th do, Mr. J. B. Dixon, M.A., principal of the united grammar and common school, Colborne; 5th do, Dr. Carlyle, principal of the Provincial Model School, Toronto; 6th do, Prof. W. W. Nelles, M.A., principal of the Union School, Clinton; Recording Secretary, Mr. A. McMurphy, B.A., mathematical master of the grammar school, Toronto; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. D. Ormiston, B.A., principal of grammar school, Berlin; Treasurer, Mr. A. Macallum, M.A., principal of central school, Hamilton; Councillors: Rev. Dr. Wickson, principal grammar school, Toronto; Mr. Hunter, principal common school, Stratford; Mr. Campbell, Ancaster; Mr. D. Johnson, principal central school, Cobourg; and Mr. J. C. Buchanan, principal central school, Preston. This completed the list of officers for the current year.

The Rev. Dr. Wickson, at the request of the chairman, closed the Convention with prayer.

THE TEACHER'S CONVERSAZIONE.

The Teachers' Association held a conversazione in the evening in the theatre of the Normal school buildings. In the unavoidable absence at Hamilton of the president, Dr. Ormiston, whither he was necessitated to proceed in the afternoon, the chair was occupied by the Rev. Dr. McCaul. On the platform were seated Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Rev. Dr. Wickson and Rev. Dr. Lillie. The attendance of ladies and gentlemen was numerous and highly respectable. Mr. J. D. Humphreys presided at the piano, and conducted the musical department with his well-known and acknowledged ability. The

proceedings of the evening were opened by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson in a brief address in which he alluded to the importance of the duties of the teachers and their laborious task, and heartily welcomed them to the city. After paying some well deserved compliments to the chairman, and the musicians, the Rev. doctor took his seat amidst applause. The following is the programme of the evening, as carried out:—1st. A short introductory address by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson; 2nd, a duett "I would that my love," by Miss Clayton and Mr. Humphreys; 3rd. Song, "Beautiful Dreamer," by Miss Gunn; 4th. Recitation, "Bernardo del Carpio," by Mr. J. B. Dixon, M.A., (with a brief introduction); 5th. Song by Miss Clayton, in the absence of Miss Gunn, "Thy voice is near." A recess was here taken, during which the assembly visited the several rooms in the building, and viewed the large and valuable collection of paintings, statuary, &c. After the recess, the following programme was observed:—6th. Song by Mr. J. D. Humphreys, "Dame Margery;" 7th. Address by the Rev. Dr. McCaul, delivered in his usual eloquent style, and containing much practical advice to teachers; 8th. Song by Mr. Archer, "Beautiful Leaves;" 9th. Song by Miss Clayton; 10th. Cornet solo, by the Sergeant of the Band of the 17th regiment; 11th. Song by Miss Clayton, "I've wandered in my dreams;" 12th. "God save the Queen," by Miss Clayton and Mr. Humphreys. The singing, the cornet solo, and the recitation were particularly good, and Miss Clayton and the Sergeant of the Band were enthusiastically encored. Shortly after ten o'clock the party separated, apparently highly gratified with the proceedings of the evening.

VIII. Miscellaneous.

1. LORD PALMERSTON AS AN EXAMPLE TO PUBLIC MEN.

I believe they are mistaken who attribute to the Providential blessing of a good constitution the ability of Lord Palmerston. While out of doors he performed the laborious duties of his high office, to set indoors and younger men the example of indefatigable attention to the public business. I am convinced it was the force of will, the sense of duty, and the determination not to give in that enabled him to make himself a model, for all of us who yet remain to follow him with feeble and unequal steps in the performance of some of the duties which it fell to his lot to discharge. His, I may add, was a force of will which did not so much struggle against the infirmities of old age, as repel them and keep them at a distance. One other quality there is which Lord Palmerston possessed which I may mention without the smallest risk of stirring up a single painful emotion, upon which it is most delightful to dwell, and which is the last I shall mention. It is this, that he had a nature incapable of enduring anger or resentment.—*Mr. Gladstone.*

IX.—Papers on Meteorology.

1. THE WET WEATHER AND THE CHOLERA.

Replete as the whole of this season has been with atmospheric and meteoric phenomena, we cannot but think that the seemingly unseasonable weather has been productive of much good, in preventing the generation of the seeds of cholera, latent among us, and only awaiting heat to develop themselves in their strength. Such a wet summer as we have been favored with has not occurred since 1831, but if we may judge from analogy, during a series of annual observations, the autumn of this year will be unusually long and fine, and the winter comparatively mild. The early part of the summer and the spring were characterized by continuous displays of the *Aurora Borealis*, and a cold chilliness remained in the air till nearly the middle of June. Maury says that "the object of storms is to restore the disturbed equilibrium in nature;" hence doubtless the great amount of thunder which has occurred during the summer. Reasoning from analogy again, we may expect towards the close of October and in the early part of November, vast quantities of meteors or falling stars, a wet summer being usually the precursor of these phenomena. The crops in the west, generally speaking, have been safely housed, but the greater part of the harvest in the Lower Province is yet uncut. How the wet will affect the potato crop, yet remains to be seen, though there are not wanting croakers, who affirm the "blight" is already in the plant. Taking, however, everything into consideration, and remembering the drought which nearly dried up our streams and springs last fall, as compared with this season, we have much cause for thankfulness, and we would bid those who are continually finding fault with the clerk of the weather for his vagaries, to remember the promise of old, so vividly recalled by the late beautiful rainbows, whose arch has been displayed twelve afternoons successively.—*Ottawa Citizen.*