

A gentleman who is deeply concerned about the greater possibilities of education writes as follows to the REVIEW: "There is still a missing link in our educational system, considering as we must the thousands who have left school too soon, or are about to leave school. The scholars from good homes are cared for; the whole system is articulated from primary school to university for the minority; but can we not have evening rural schools, industrial or otherwise? Can nothing more be done for thousands of illiterate youth in these provinces? Denmark has one hundred* high schools for adults!"

Church Work is now published in a new form and under a new editor and management. It is issued fortnightly at North Sydney, C. B., by Rev. C. W. Vernon and is an eight-page journal neatly printed on smooth white paper, with numerous clear illustrations, and carefully written editorial and other matter. We heartily agree with the announcement made by the former editor in the first number, that if such a paper does not succeed "the Church people of the Maritime Provinces should be heartily ashamed of themselves."

Talking with a commercial traveller not long ago he said he attributed his success in selling goods not so much to his industry and push as to his entire abstinence from intoxicating drinks. He said it was well understood in these times of fierce competition in trade, that it was not business-like for any man to drink. Surely this is a good temperance lesson for young people. Success in business or in any profession must not be trifled with by yielding to the temptation to drink.

There is a dearth in too many of our schools of reproductions of work of art—those that are truly beautiful and at the same time suitable. More of music, art, poetry is required to round out the natures of young people. There is no real study of music except in a few favored schools; art is entirely ignored, or confined to the placing of a few pictures on the walls; poetry is robbed of all pleasure-giving because pupils are required to analyze it too persistently. The subjects of our school course are addressed to the intellect and to the memory rather than to the cultivation of taste, or the awakening of a desire for real culture. Are our teachers preparing themselves to be the leaders of the reform that must come, or will the leaders spring up from outside their ranks?

Recent School Legislation.

Several changes and additions to the school law have been made both in the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick legislatures during the recent sessions. Many of these are important.

In New Brunswick the attendance of children at the public schools may be enforced by those districts which vote to adopt compulsion. This is the mildest form of a compulsory act; but it is on a par with some school legislation of the past. Before free schools were sanctioned by law in the province, the ratepayers of a district had the option to assess themselves for the support of schools.

Some of the amendments to the New Brunswick school law, it is gratifying to record, are progressive, and coupled with what has been done in recent years for the introduction of consolidated schools, manual training, nature study and agricultural education may be looked upon as decided steps toward improved educational facilities. The amendments provide that districts may assess themselves for free text books; that consolidated schools may have five acres of land instead of one; that teachers and boards of health shall hereafter look after vaccination certificates; that grammar school grants may be transferred from one section of a county to another after a lapse of ten years; that teachers shall have additional powers to preserve order and protect pupils from interference by outsiders; that school districts, failing to maintain a school in operation for two successive terms or failing to have the children conveyed to a school in a neighboring district, shall be annexed to a contiguous district. It is to be hoped that the latter especially will be vigorously enforced.

The government also has the authority to compel districts to unite and form a consolidated school if it is thought that such a union shall advance the educational interests of the community.

It is to be regretted that the New Brunswick government could not see its way clear to improve the salaries of teachers, in accordance with the petition presented by the Teachers' Association. It is held by some that an increase by the government would be met by a corresponding lowering of the local salaries paid to teachers. It is not too much to ask that districts take the initiative in increasing teachers' salaries and many are now doing so.

The fact should not be lost sight of, however, that in New Brunswick special grants are now made to over fifty schools which include manual training and related subjects in their course of study under