

FOR THE REVIEW.]

KINDERGARTEN DISCUSSION AT THE INTER-PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

Those interested in the progress of Kindergarten culture will be pleased to learn that a full discussion of the special topic, "The Practical Application of Kindergarten Principles to the Primary School," is upon the programme. It is not wide of the truth to say that no more important question will fall under the consideration of those who attend the convention. We trust that our Nova Scotia teachers, without distinction of sex or grade, will prepare themselves to take an intelligent part in the discussion. They should study not only the methods of the Kindergarten, but also the profound principles on which these methods depend. Froebel's distinction as an educator does not rest simply upon the Kindergarten, although that alone would confer imperishable fame, but on the deep spiritual insight that enabled him to take a comprehensive view of man in his complex relations to nature, to the human race as a solidarity, and to the Divine Father. He grasps the spiritual significance of the incidents of everyday life. Every little childish play is seized upon as a means of alluring the child to a higher plane of thought and feeling. In the "Mother-Play and Cosselling Songs" it is shown how the infant play of "Peep-Bo" charms by the "connection of contrasts." The little one hides; not having mother in full sight is pleasing as a new sensation; but see the delight that expresses itself in every lineament and feature when, "found," he is clasped in the loving arms again. "Let him not," says Froebel, "stray too far, nor stay too long, lest he lose his sweet, clinging dependence on your faithful love and guardianship." We recommend to teachers Froebel's two works: "Education of Man," Hailmann's edition, annotated; and "Mother-Play and Cosselling Songs." This last, translated by the generous aid of Mrs. Pauline A. Shaw, was used by Miss Blow in her instructions to her training class in St. Louis with excellent results. It contains verses for mother and child, with music, and has the quaintest illustrations, by Froebel himself, full of incident and suggestion. If every mother and teacher would study with childlike docility this wonderful book, it would, in many cases, be such a revelation that the whole course of training would be changed, to the great advantage of the children. But, as the time is short, and only special work has much chance of accomplishment, we sincerely wish that Dr. Hailmann's "Primary Methods," and Prang's "Teachers' Manual for the Study of Form and Drawing," could be in the hands of all our teachers. If they would read them,

even cursorily, it would place them well for the discussion at the Convention. Their serious study during vacation would show itself in the coming term in improved teaching in our schools, especially in arithmetic, geometry, drawing, and modelling. "Primary Methods" is published by A. S. Barnes, New York, 75 cents; "Prang's Manual" by Prang, Boston, 50 cents. For \$1.50 a box of material is sent with the Manual, so that the teacher could gain facility in illustrating and superintending the exercises of the little book. It is as unique as simple in its methods, and is the outcome of several years' study by Mrs. Mary Dana Hicks, of drawing for children, from the standpoint of physiology and psychology. The object is to teach pupils to *see correctly*, to gain clear conceptions through well defined sense impressions, and to embody their ideas in concrete forms in different materials, as clay, paper, card-board, sticks, pencilled lines, water-colors, etc. Dr. Hailmann's work is strong in its application of Froebel's methods to geometry and arithmetic; Prang's in its treatment of modelling and drawing. But both smooth a hard place where there has been much stumbling, and they are so logical that no one who will follow their lead need fail of success. Two or three or more teachers might join and get a single copy of these books, and the necessary material, and study them in concert; if they could beguile some intelligent mothers to join them for an occasional hour of reading and discussion it might create community of interest and help the cause of education.

C.

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PERSONAL NOTES.

R. P. Steeves, of the Woodstock Grammar School, recently passed a successful examination at Sackville for the degree of M. A.

Victoria University, of Coburg, Ont., has conferred the degree of LL. D. on Prof. A. D. Smith, of Mount Allison University.

Rev. President Forrest, of Dalhousie, passed through St. John this week on his way home from a trip to the United States.

Abbe Casgrain, of Quebec, succeeds Professor Lawson, of the University of Dalhousie, as President of the Royal Society of Canada.

Principal Cameron, of Yarmouth Academy, gave a very interesting series of popular astronomical demonstrations during the winter. He recommends students of the Summer Science Schools to buy or borrow opera or field glasses for the study of the sky.