

years ago, are now in charge of boys and girls in their first or second year of teaching, just because the attendance is smaller than it used to be.

Lastly, if compulsory attendance be good for cities, towns and villages, why not for rural districts. The attention of the Minister of Education has been called to a simple method by which a fine of five cents a day, for each child absent without good reason, might be collected with the ordinary fines, but a new edition of the School Act has been passed and no effort to remove the greatest curse of the country has been made.

J. H. Knight, I.P.S., Lindsay.

THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY:

Dear Sir,—Your statement that "not one-half of the School children reach the Fourth Book class," which you have reiterated in the last two numbers of the Monthly, has no foundation whatever in fact.

On p. v. (Report 1900) we find the number of pupils in First Reader, Parts I and II, 174,442; Fourth Reader, 86,500. On p. 10 we find a more detailed statement, which does not include the Separate Schools as the first does. This gives Part I, 81,301, Part II, 54,239; Second Reader,

70,430, Third Reader, 76,264, Fourth Reader, 68,807. The detailed statement for the Separate Schools may be found farther on in the Report, but details are not given as in Public Schools. I have no doubt that a close study of all the figures will show agreement between the different parts of the Report.

First Reader, Part II, is a distinct grade, just as much as Second Reader is, and First Reader, Part I, often includes, in cities, two distinct classes, a morning and an afternoon class. In any case, we have five distinct grades containing as above 351,041 pupils, an average of 70,208 in each grade. The large number in the first grade may be explained by the constant additions to it, at all times of the year, from the home and from kindergartens, and by irregular attendance of pupils under eight years of age.

The difference between the actual number in the Fourth Reader and the above average, 70,208, is 1,401, and this represents the loss between the First Reader, Part I, and the Fourth Reader. It is not a very alarming loss.

Yours, etc.,

S. Silcox, I.P.S.

St. Thomas, May 20, 1901.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

To accommodate readers who may wish it, the publishers of THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY will send, postpaid, on receipt of the price, any book reviewed in these columns.

"It is more shameful to distrust people than to be deceived by them," is one of the wise sayings in the April number of "The Philistine."

"The Youth's Companion" for May 9th, contains an editorial note on the monument to be erected in the city of Quebec to General Montgomery, which contains rather more information on the subject than seems to be at the disposal of Canadians. The note states that the tablet will be unveiled in June and that the un-

veiling will be followed by a banquet. No Canadian wants to be ungracious about the feeling of the citizens of the States for General Montgomery; but it is not too much to say that there has been a slight misrepresentation as to the way in which Canadians generally regard the subject.

"The Ladies' Home Journal" for May has, for one of its most attractive features, "A Glimpse of Picturesque Canada," which consists of photographs of some of the most