

paper at the end of the first year's elementary instruction in physiology. Of ten questions, eight relate to drinking and smoking: the physiology is a mere side issue. These children, who ought to have about as much knowledge of such matters as they should of the methods in vogue at the stock exchange, are actually forced to learn by rote the details of human vice; and that, too, under the name of "physiology," the only science which they learn. Unconsciousness, *naivete*, is the symbol of childhood. The fact that physiology, even if well taught, tends to destroy this trait is the chief objection to its early study. Instruction, such as the above implies, crushes the most valuable trait in the child, directs its curiosity to what is morbid, and forces into precocious development all its dangerous elements. Not enough that the newspaper and the dime novel proclaim in glaring colors the story of crime and sin: some notion of the perversity of human nature must be mixed with the food of babes. That the result of this teaching is to excite in the children a morbid curiosity to experiment for themselves in such matters; or (with the boys) to regard the whole thing as a lesson in "goody-goodyness," to which they forthwith decide to show themselves superior; or to regard their father, who takes his glass of wine at dinner, as an incipient criminal,—this could easily have been foreseen, and goes without saying. If there is one method better than all others to produce a race of drunkards, this has good claims to that distinction. If there is a degree of wrong in such superlatively perverse methods, then it is still worse that the fair name of science should be outraged in this cause. Not only that this kind of teaching necessarily depends upon catechism methods (that the answer to the second question, for example, is to read that the especial perniciousness of cigarettes is due to the fact that they are made of decayed cigar stumps), but that the entire idea of science thus implanted is as wrong as it well can be. Better far revert to the old days when there was no science on the curriculum than have science thus taught. The crowning educational virtue of science is that it leads to the use of scientific methods of teaching: this usurper chokes up all possibility of an interest in the scientific. The "temperance" question is doubtless one of the most important with which our age has to deal; sufficiently important, perhaps to make some consideration of it in the public schools a legitimate proceeding, but it must be done at the right time and in the proper way. Nothing can excuse the conversion of a text-book on physiology into a "temperance" tract: nothing can excuse the sacrilege of presenting this story of disgusting vice under the name of "science."—*Science*.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Thos. J. Forsythe, B. A., of Belfast, has been appointed Vice-Principal of the Methodist College, St. John's, Newfoundland. He is an honor man in metaphysics and logic.

Professor Denton, A. B., of the Halifax Academy, has been appointed Lecturer in Geology in the Nova Scotian Summer School of Science. Professor Denton has lately attended the Summer School at Harvard University.

Inspector Oakes is visiting the Fredericton schools this week.

Inspector G. W. Mersereau finished his examination of the Restigouche schools the last of February. In his report for 1887 Mr. Mersereau refers to the excellent work done in the Dalhousie Grammar School and the Campbellton Superior School; and it is a pleasure to note that on his recent visit he found these schools had improved on their record of last year in a marked degree. The Inspector is this month visiting the schools of Gloucester.

Inspector Lay has recently visited this part of his inspectorial district and reports improvement in educational matters. Mr. Lay is an efficient and faithful officer. It is to be hoped that he will have the hearty co-operation of trustees and ratepayers in all his efforts at reform.—*Wallace, N. S., correspondent of Sackville Post*.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

St. Francis Xavier College, Antigonish, is increasing its chemical laboratory facilities and enlarging its equipment.

From the Antigonish *Casket* we learn that President McNeil, of St. Francis Xavier, has purchased an organ for the use of the College.

Acadia College is keeping well to the front. Last summer it was the seat of the Provincial Summer School of Science; last month of the N. S. Fruit Growers' Association. It gave two Superintendents of Education to Nova Scotia; and the Principal and two Professors of the Nova Scotia Normal School are numbered among its alumni.

Dalhousie College is preparing for a grand housewarming. A splendid conversation is expected to come off shortly. Some writer proposes that the name be changed to "Halifax University." If Halifax gives it a "christening gift" of say at least \$100,000, all right. Not otherwise.