

subject. It was brought forward by Mr. Melly, who moved for a select Committee to enquire into primary education in our large towns. Confining his observations to Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham, he stated that in the last named city out of 98,000 children of school age only 47,000 were at school, although there were 10,000 places vacant in the schools provided for the working classes. There were from 25,000 to 30,000 children running idle in the streets. In Manchester, out of 76,000 children of school age, less than one-half were at school, and 25,000 were living the life of the streets. The state of matters at Birmingham was equally bad, for out of 78,000 children nearly 39,000 were in the streets. The question for Government and the nation to consider was not, he said, "What shall we do with these children?" but "What shall they do with us?" This he answered by drawing a fearful picture of the amount of crime and pauperism in these vast centres of population, and by referring to the increase which had taken place in the local taxation thereby occasioned. He declared that the only effective way of dealing with the gigantic evil would be the establishment of a system of national unsectarian education, supported by rates and including a provision for the compulsory attendance of scholars. Mr. Dixon supplemented Mr. Melly's statistics so far as Birmingham was concerned, and concurred with the hon. gentlemen as regards the remedy; as did also Mr. Fawcett, who is, however, of opinion that there is no need of inquiry, and that the Government should, with the least possible delay, introduce a comprehensive measure of national education. In the course of the discussion which arose, Mr. Mundella supplied some valuable information as to the state of education on the continent, and the working and results of compulsory education there. He had, he said, gone through Saxony, where he was an employer of labour, and he had never, in the city, in the fields, or in the mountains there, met a child ten years of age who could not read and write with facility. Mr. Rumble, then Secretary of Legation at Berne, had furnished the House last year with a remarkable return of the state of matters in Switzerland. That gentleman in that report said that hardly a child in the Confederation was incapable of reading and writing with facility, unless physically and mentally incapable; and this Mr. Rumble attributed to compulsory education, and further showed that, although only thirty years had elapsed since the present system of education was established, compulsion was no longer necessary. Mr. Mundella said the same remark applied to Saxony, and he contrasted the state of things he had described in Germany and Switzerland with what was to be seen in some villages in England. In one of these places near Nottingham, he said that he found that out of 750 children of school age less than 50 were at school. He also gave the statistics of 12,000 persons employed in labour, from which it appeared that not 50 per cent. could write at all. Other members referred to the deplorable ignorance of other places; and Mr. Forster, on the part of the Government, said they would, under the authority of the Privy Council, institute an inquiry into the educational condition of Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester and Birmingham. Upon this assurance Mr. Melly withdrew his motion.

IX. Departmental Notices.

ADMISSION OF GIRLS TO GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

Ordered,—That the regulation in Section 11, No. 4, of the Grammar School Regulations be amended so as to read as follows:—

4. To afford every possible facility for learning French, girls may, at the option of the Trustees, be admitted to any Grammar School on passing the preliminary and final examinations required for the admission of boys. Girls thus admitted will take French and the English subjects of the classical course for boys, but in order to be returned or recognized as Grammar School Pupils, they must be engaged in one of the two prescribed Programmes of Studies for the Grammar Schools.

Adopted by the Council of Public Instruction on 8th March,

1869, and approved by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, as communicated to the Chief Superintendent of Education on the 2nd April, 1869.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOKS AND REQUISITES.

Application having been frequently made to the Department for the supply from its Depository of Sunday School Library and Prize Books, Maps and other requisites, it is deemed advisable to insert the following information on the subject.

1. The Department has no authority to grant the one hundred per cent. upon any remittance for Library or Prize Books, Maps or Requisites, except on such as are received from Municipal or Public School Corporations in Upper Canada. Books, Maps and other Requisites suitable for Sunday Schools, or for Library or other similar Associations, can however, on receipt of the necessary amount, be supplied from the Depository at the net prices, that is about twenty-five or thirty per cent. less than the usual current retail prices.

2. The admirable books published in England by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and by the London Religious Tract Society, are furnished from the Societies' catalogues at currency for sterling prices (i. e. a shilling sterling book is furnished for twenty cents Canadian currency, and so on in proportion.) These two catalogues will, as far as possible, be furnished to parties applying for them. Books suitable for Sunday Schools are received from the other large religious societies, Presbyterian and Methodists, and from the various extensive publishers in Britain and the United States, but the list would be two extensive to publish separately.

3. On receiving the necessary instructions, a suitable selection can be made at the Department, subject to the approval of the parties sending the order. Any books, maps, &c., not desired which may be sent from the Depository, will be exchanged for others, if returned promptly and in good order.

FOUR KINDS OF LIBRARIES WHICH MAY BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE DEPARTMENTAL REGULATIONS.

"The Public School Libraries are becoming the crown and glory of the Institutions of the Province."—LORD ELGIN.

"Had I the power I would scatter Libraries over the whole land, as the sower sows his seed."—HORACE MANN.

Under the regulations of the Department, each County Council can establish *four classes* of libraries in their Municipality, as follows. City, Town, Village, and Township Councils can establish the first three classes, and School Trustees either of the first and third classes.

1. An ordinary *Common School Library* in each school house for the use of the children and rate-payers.

2. A *General Public Lending Library*, available to all the rate payers of the Municipality.

3. A *Professional Library* of books on teaching, school organization, language and kindred subjects, available to teachers alone.

4. A Library in any *Public Institution*, under the control of the Municipality, for the use of the inmates, or in the *County Jail*, for the use of the prisoners.

We cannot too strongly urge upon School Trustees, the importance and even the necessity of providing, (especially during the autumn and winter months,) suitable reading books for the pupils in their school, either as prizes or in libraries. Having given the pupils a taste for reading and general knowledge, they should provide some agreeable and practical means of gratifying it.

TABLET READING LESSONS.

The new Tablet Reading Lessons, consisting of thirty-three large sheets, can be obtained at the Depository at 75 cts. per set; at \$1.00, free of postage; or \$4.50, mounted on cardboard. The 100 per cent. is allowed on these lessons when ordered with maps and apparatus, &c.