

that are already familiar to the pupils' mind, instead of hanging them high in the air, out of the reach of all their sympathies. We do not believe in any antagonism between theory and practice, and have not the least fear of making science "vulgar" by making it useful.—*Massachusetts Teacher.* W. P. A.

State of Education in Various Countries.

I. THE INSTITUTIONS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION IN GENOA AND TURIN, PIEDMONT.

BY THE REV. DR PULLICINO.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I hope that a few notices about the Institutions for Public Education which I visited last summer will not be unwelcome to you. I shall speak first of Genoa and Turin, in which cities there is at present much to observe. The political reforms of the year 1848 gave a great impulse to public instruction, especially elementary. The Institutions most worthy of notice are the Training Schools, the Technical Schools, and Colleges.

The Female Training School of Genoa contains at the present time about twenty young women, who, during four hours daily receive from different masters instruction in grammar, geography, natural history, Scripture history, arithmetic, penmanship, linear drawing, vocal music, and method. The scholastic exercises are conducted with much propriety and order. The method adopted in the teaching is the simultaneous. The School is superintended by a governess, who, in the intervals of repose from study, further exercises the young women in female occupations.

This school was founded towards the year 1848. Its utility is great, seeing how great is the necessity of preparing mistresses for conducting the elementary girls' schools, of which there are still but few in the district of Genoa. As compared with those for boys, they are not more than one fifth of the number.

This Training school is directed by Professor Vincenzo Troya, a gentleman who has published some meritorious works on education. Conspicuous endowments, both intellectual and moral, render him highly qualified for the honorable office which he holds.

There is a similar Training School at Turin for the education of mistresses for the elementary schools of that district. It has been founded but a very few years. It is divided into three large classes, each presided over by a mistress. This division corresponds to a three years' course of study, which the pupils have to go through in order to become qualified as mistresses. The three classes are attended by 150 young women, who daily receive instruction from different masters in a variety of subjects. Much care is taken to exercise them well in Italian grammar and composition. Nor is the care taken in vain. Many of the students of the upper class write with so much facility and grace that nothing further could be desired.

The education of elementary schoolmasters is provided for in a different manner. A chair for Pedagogy has been created in the University of Turin. Some young men, by following the lectures given there, learn the principles of method, of which they afterwards see the application in the boys' schools. The young men generally leave this University school qualified as masters of method. Distributing themselves over the different provinces of the kingdom, they communicate at certain periods of the year the same instruction to others who wish to qualify themselves as elementary schoolmasters. In this manner, the normal instruction is not only propagated through distant regions, but is elevated to the rank of other studies which have the University for their chief seat.

The lectures on method in the University of Turin are given by Professor Rayneri, a clergyman of great zeal for the progress of public education. Among some excellent works published by him, may be particularized one which contains the principles of the science which he professes, entitled *First Principles of method*.

Although the elementary schools at Turin and Genoa are already numerous, they are not so numerous as the population requires. Otherwise they are excellent, and, in the arrangement of the instruction, and in the methods adopted, they are modelled upon the best schools of Germany. They are each divided into four classes, corresponding to four successive courses of study to be completed in four years. At the close of each year the scholars pass by examination from one class to another. The instruction embraces reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and the elements of geometry, geography, and history. Vocal music and linear drawing are not neglected. Great importance is attached to exercising the boys and girls in speaking and writing their native language correctly. Occasionally classes are met in which the number of pupils is too great: it not unfrequently rises to 90; nevertheless these classes are generally conducted by able masters. The method of teaching adopted in these schools is the simultaneous.

Several of the elementary schools of Turin are conducted by brothers of the Christian Schools (*Frères chrétiens*). These are particularly excellent, and in them the best arrangements of the others may be observed. Various books published for the use of the other schools are employed. The boys remain six hours a day, four in the morning, and two in the afternoon. The number of children who are at present being educated at Turin in the schools of this religious order amounts to about 2,000.

Besides the elementary schools, there are at Turin several Infant Asylums, in which the boys and girls are educated promiscuously. Some of these asylums are under the direction of the sisters of Charity. They are maintained partly out of public funds, and partly by private beneficence. These asylums do not appear so flourishing as were a few years ago those of Tuscany; which further afford me occasion to mention to you a notable person whom the City of Turin at present contains.

This person is the Abate Ferrente Aporti, who introduced the Infant Asylums into Italy. He is advanced in age, venerable in aspect, and infinitely amiable in manner. Some years ago he rendered valuable assistance in the re-organization of the elementary schools of Piedmont, by giving a powerful impetus to the study of method. He now occupies an eminent position in connection with Public Education, being Rector of the renowned University of Turin.

The Technical Schools, of which there is one at Genoa and another at Turin, may be considered as belonging in some measure to the elementary schools. They are schools designed to complete the scientific education of artists and artisans. They are partly modelled on the plan of the Conservatory of Arts and Trades of Paris. Although their utility is already evident, yet in the course of time it will not fail to make itself much more manifest.

The Technical schools of Genoa are united in one single institution, which was founded in the year 1847 by the Chamber of Commerce of that city. The principal schools are at present, one for navigation and naval architecture, a second for chemistry applied to the arts, a third for industrial mechanics, and a fourth for drawing applied to the arts. The schools are furnished with a good supply of instruments and means of study, which are provided by the liberality of the Chamber of Commerce. The object is to ameliorate the condition of the artisans, who have so great an influence on the state of the commerce of the country. These schools are all commendable for the manner in which they are organized, and the propriety with which they are conducted. The Technical schools of Turin occupy some buildings adjacent to the Carignano Palace. Here lectures of various kinds are given by able professors, sometimes in the evening, sometimes early in the morning, particularly in chemistry and in mechanics applied to the arts. These schools are provided with abundant means of instruction, including a large collection of objects of natural history, and an excellent museum of machines and mechanical models. These last are in great part the work of one of the professors, who is a truly great ornament of this institution.

I allude to Professor Gulio, a man of mature age, but youthful vigor. He is singularly remarkable, not only for his knowledge, but also for the admirable and easy manner in which he communicates his ideas. These endowments render him a true type of the perfect teacher of a school established for the benefit of artisans. He is very widely known in Italy for a valuable work on industrial mechanics which he published.

The colleges in Piedmont occupy a superior grade to that of the elementary schools. Those of early date are called Real schools, while the new ones, founded about the year 1848, are styled National. At Turin, that of the Carmine is distinguished both for its instruction, and for its discipline. About 200 youths reside within the walls, other 800 live outside, and only attend the instruction; altogether the students number 1,000. Many of them belong to the four elementary classes, which serve as preparatory to more advanced courses of study.—These are of two kinds: classical and special. In the special course, things applicable to the arts are studied, such as (inter alia) linear drawing. Various professors give instruction in literature and science in the higher classes. Among them may be mentioned Professor Dominico Capellina and Professor Emerico Sismonda. The former teaches Latin literature, the latter natural history. In many of the classes, both elementary and advanced, the youthful students exhibit much quickness of intellect; a result, without doubt, attributable in great part to the high ability of those who teach, and the good direction of those who govern.

Besides the colleges, an institution of a special character at Genoa merits particular attention: I mean the Real School of Marines. This school serves to educate boys for the naval service of the State. The boys are admitted by examination; and, after passing with approbation through a regular course of study, they go out to occupy posts in ships of war. The number of pupils amounts at present to 50. They receive from different professors instruction in Italian literature, French language, calculation, physics, and mechanics applied to the art of navigation. Further, they are practised in naval and artillery manoeuvres.