

the future and secure for it one of the first conditions of success.

But this is not all. The skilful teacher can by short lessons on common things excite curiosity respecting surrounding objects. Trees, rocks, ice, snow, rain, domestic animals, etc., will be beheld with more intelligent eyes and the mind prepared for the explanation of simple natural processes which may be attempted even before the children leave the primary department. And it is remarkable how much useful information may be conveyed in this way and how long the impression then made on the mind will continue. Lessons communicated with spirit and force, and with a certain grace of attractiveness to children at this age, often cling to the memory in after life when the more pretentious dissertations of a later period pass from it and leave not a trace behind. The training of the child to attend to and remember what it hears is undoubtedly one of the most important of all the functions of the teacher. The sooner the habit is acquired the better for the child, and the earlier the discipline is begun excellence will more probably be reached and that by a method natural, continuous and pleasurable.

In this way, too, valuable moral instruction may be imparted. A well told story will produce a more powerful and lasting effect than much discoursing on morals. The narrative is remembered, and, if it be carefully constructed, the incidents can rarely be recalled without the lesson which they were intended to convey.

A primary school conducted in this way becomes a most important link in the educational chain. It prepares the child for more advanced work, it conciliates his good will for school, it educates his faculties of attention and observation, and provides him with a good foundation in morals and discipline. And the teacher who accomplishes this task with success discharges a duty requiring much delicacy, tact and judgment.

I do not, however, by any means maintain, that under these more favorable conditions, the Normal School should do nothing to advance the scholarship of its students. On the contrary, without at all obstructing its technical work, it should both directly and indirectly exert such influence as will greatly promote higher attainments in general knowledge. In my opinion, however, as regards the subjects included under the term "general scholarship," there are two leading ends which the Normal School should propose for itself:—1st. It should review the various subjects of the common school course; 2nd. It should awaken in the students a scholarly spirit.—*Principal Colkin.*

THE ECONOMIC MOLLUSCA OF ACADIA.

Mr. W. F. Ganong's treatise, to which we previously alluded as something to be expected and much to be desired, has duly come to hand in the shape of a neatly bound volume of 116 pages. The author has put together in these pages, in a popular way, but with remarkable conciseness and yet with fullness, what is known of the shell-fish of these Atlantic provinces, which are of the most interest to the masses. For the scientific specialist he also gives references to papers bearing on the subject. Thirty species are described and many are figured in excellent cuts which will enable the most unscientific fisherman to identify and name his specimen. This work will not only prove valuable to the teacher who is commencing the practical study of our mollusca, but to the teacher who is in search of interesting, nay striking materials for object lessons, and to every dweller by the sea. We note some points at random, to illustrate the character of the popular information given.

Squid is worth \$4.00 a barrel, and \$124,000 worth were taken for bait in the Atlantic provinces in 1887.

The edible whelk is figured and its habits described. It is a real luxury. One sandy flat in Great Britain, in Whitstable Bay, yields \$60,000 worth annually; and another, the Great Grimsby fishery, is valued annually at about \$100,000. What can Maritime Canadians do?

The dog-periwinkle so abundant on our shores is a member of the group which produced the famous Tyrian purple, so valuable that in the reign of Augustus one pound of wool dyed by it was sold for the equivalent of \$150 of our money. Our dog or purple periwinkle will give a fine unchangeable crimson.

Our common periwinkle is the same species sold in London to the extent of more than 2,500 tons, worth \$75,000 annually. The average selling price is a penny a pint. In France pins are placed beside the plates of diners for extricating the boiled mollusc from its shell. They sell at St. John for about \$2.00 per bushel, and in Halifax for 5 or 6 cents per quart.

A very full account of the oyster is given. They are worth \$13,000,000 annually to the United States.

At \$3.00 a barrel the product of the Atlantic provinces of Canada is over \$180,000 annually.

The scallop is worth \$29,000 annually to the United States. In these provinces they are worth fifty cents per dozen.

The edible mussel is useful for bait, for food, as a fertilizer (mussel mud) and for ornaments. In 1873 about \$1,400,000 worth was exported from Antwerp