

THE
EDUCATIONAL RECORD

OF THE
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

No. 2.

FEBRUARY, 1886.

VOL. VI.

TEACHING COMPOSITION.

(Continued from page 8.)

II. LANGUAGE LESSONS.

The preparatory exercises required for young pupils in learning to understand and use the English language with skill have, by common consent, received the name of Language Lessons. By language lessons we mean such elementary training in the use of language as shall enable a pupil to understand and appreciate language, and to use it with correctness, ease, and elegance.

Nature and Importance.—Of the importance of such lessons there can be no doubt. The primary object of education in language is to learn to use language. In order to learn the correct use of language, we must notice and use language. The use of language is an art; and we learn the art by imitation and practice. In order to learn to talk well, we must hear good talking and practice talking. In order to learn to write well, we must notice good composition and practice writing ourselves.

A system of language lessons conforms to nature's method of teaching language. The little child, prattling in its mother's arms, is engaged in its first lessons in composition. The simple name, the quality and action word, the short sentence, etc., all come in the natural growth of the power of expression. In teaching, we must observe nature's method and follow her golden rules. A correct system of language lessons is founded upon the