

Drawing.

There are few subjects in our school course of greater practical utility than drawing and few that have the power of appealing in a greater degree to the interest, activity and originality of pupils. On the other hand there is perhaps no subject that is left more to chance or to the caprice or indolence of teachers than drawing.

The capable instructors in our normal schools are doing much to remedy this defect, and the young teachers who graduate year after year are more impressed with the importance of this subject and have acquired considerable skill and facility in teaching it.

Mr. H. H. Hagerman, instructor of drawing in the New Brunswick Normal School, held for two hours the rapt attention of the Restigouche County teachers a few weeks ago in an illustrative address, replete with many valuable suggestions. His audience was toned to the highest pitch of interest and asked questions freely. This inspired Mr. Hagerman as it does every teacher. He rose to the occasion, and the result must be a great stimulus in the teaching of drawing in a county, where, Inspector Mersereau assures us, are to be found a score or more of teachers, that include some of the most earnest in the world.

The interest aroused by Mr. Hagerman in Restigouche suggests the thought that the instructors of drawing in our normal schools might do a useful work by attending all local institutes and giving illustrative lessons (not papers—we have had enough of theory) on drawing. Although excellent instruction has been given in our normal schools on that subject the results have not been equal in measure to the quality of the instruction. Drawing is poorly taught in most of our schools, especially in the country where the opportunity, and the inspiration caught from the contact with nature appeal strongly to the children. The teachers who go out of the normal schools with some enthusiasm to teach this subject find difficulties in the way and grow lukewarm. After trial and failure they are more receptive to the efforts of their drawing master to arouse them to a fresh interest in this subject.

The world is not down on you, it is too busy.

Nova Scotia Technical College.

Nova Scotia is making rapid strides in industrial education. The opening of the new Technical College, at Halifax, which began its work on the 29th September, is a notable event in the educational history of the province. In this college, which occupies a commanding position in the city and which has a capable and enthusiastic principal, aided by an exceptionally fine staff of assistants, any lad in Nova Scotia may get a training in any of the four great branches of civil, mining, electrical or mechanical engineering. Added to this, evening classes in technical education for young men and women have been opened in Halifax, Amherst, New Glasgow, Sydney and other centres in the province.

For years past a commendable interest has been shown by the young men of Nova Scotia, to improve themselves in technical knowledge either by acquiring it in colleges abroad or by the medium of correspondence schools. Neither of these has proved satisfactory. By the first the province has lost many of its brightest young men, whose services have been secured by other countries; and the correspondence school is far less effective than the inspiration of a live working teacher. All honour, then, to the far sighted policy of the educational men and rulers of Nova Scotia, who have made it possible for young men to secure such training in their own province with the prospect of their remaining to help build up its industries and develop its resources.

The *Halifax Recorder*, after referring to the opening, has this to say regarding the work and the future of the new college:

... Every student will be taught just those things that are needed by him for a thorough mastery of his trade, and nothing will be forced upon him which, though valuable in itself, has no direct bearing upon his business in life. Not to make more tradesmen, but better tradesmen, will be the motto and the aim of the course. . . . The Murray Government has done many things for the benefit of our people, but none of its acts are more commendable, more disarming to all criticism, than the founding of this eminently useful and practical institution, and placing at the head thereof a gentleman of Professor Sexton's knowledge, ability, energy and enthusiasm. Beginning with over two hundred students, what shall we say of it ten years hence?

Faithfulness in little things fits one for heroism when the great trials come.—*Louisa M. Alcott.*