

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The joint meeting of the teachers of Carleton and Victoria Counties at Woodstock on December 17th and 18th was marked by the excellence of the lessons given and the papers read by the teachers themselves. Prominent among these were,—a lesson in Latin given by Miss Jennie King to pupils of Grade VIII. Miss King introduced the children, with much skill, to the uses of the ablative of means and the ablative of accompaniment, leading them to form their own rules for the proper translation of the English preposition "with"; a paper on the Teaching of History, read by Miss Bessie Fraser, who gave an inspiring account of her methods of relating history and geography, history and literature, and of presenting ideals of citizenship and patriotism; a paper on grammar by Miss Ruth Harper, and one on English composition by Miss Mildred Wallace. Good lessons were given in the Intermediate and Primary Sections on reading, nature study and other subjects. A paper on "Discipline" by Miss Lena Scott, read before the Intermediate Section, we hope to publish for our readers' benefit.

The hour spent in listening to Inspector O'Blenes' practical talk on Arithmetic, with illustrations of his methods of teaching, was felt to be well repaid. Primary teachers especially, must have profited by this instruction.

After listening to Mr. A. D. Jonah's excellent paper on Nature Study on Friday morning the teachers visited the Vocational School, where they were received by Miss Marvin and shown some of the work done in the Domestic Science and Manual Training Departments.

The evening meeting in the Assembly Hall of the Fisher Memorial School was addressed by Judge Carleton, Hon. J. K. Flemming, and Inspector Dixon, and Mrs. F. C. Squires and others sang. The Woodstock teachers served refreshments.

Discussions on the different papers and lessons were taken part in by Inspector Dixon, Mr. F. C. Squires, Miss Neales, Miss Robinson, Editor of the REVIEW, and others. Mr. Squires made an excellent presiding officer, and his speeches were exceptionally inspiring and instructive.

The attendance was about one hundred and twenty. The next meeting is to be held at Grand Falls. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—President, F. C. Squires; Vice-President, Miss Bessie Fraser; Secretary-Treasurer,

Walter S. Daley; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Carvell; Additional Members of Executive, Miss Mildred Wallace, Mr. A. D. Jonah, Mr. Dow White.

At the closing meeting, it was unanimously voted that \$20.00 out of the Institute funds should be contributed to the Belgian Relief Fund.

A Y. M. C. A. HIGH SCHOOL.

The Y. M. C. A. in St. John has fallen into line with other branches of the association in many of the large cities in Canada and the States by opening a night school for employed boys.

School in the strict sense of the word is hardly the right term in this case, although this institution of learning resembles the famous Dotheboys Hall, in so far as each pupil receives a practical training, or as Squeers put it, "First he learns a thing, and then he goes and does it."

The idea was to give boys who have left school in the primary grades, and there are many of them, a chance to fit themselves for better positions than they now hold. To this end certain requirements of the public school, to wit, Latin, algebra, botany and the like are omitted from the curriculum and Reading, 'Ritin and 'Rithmitic, are administered in their stead. It is pitiful to see how sadly deficient even the boys who have left some of the advanced grades are in these branches of learning.

Two boys who had gone to the eighth grade and could gaily follow a Latin verb through all its twists and turns, or vivisect an English sentence to a nicety could not even add a column of figures with anything like rapidity and accuracy, and their writing leaves much to be desired in the way of legibility.

Geography plays a prominent part in the work, but it is reduced to a very practical basis, the war being a subject which holds the boys' interest and impresses areas, distance, populations and locations on their minds.

History is compounded in sugared pills and takes the form of fifteen minute talks by the teacher. While for reading, spelling and dictation the editorial columns of the daily papers make an excellent substitute for the sad tale of "Jane's Bird" and other prosy anecdotes which darkened our childhood.

The class has now been formed for about two months, and so far has proved a great success.
—Contributed.