

parison, we have not the data for presenting any adequate view of education in Newfoundland.

[Inspector Hinkle Condon.]

As regards the poor teacher, the inspector admonishes, suggests, lays out the work, but reflecting on the improbability of finding the same teacher at his next visit, is disheartened as he thinks of the slender chance of progress a school may expect to secure from a changing succession of such hirelings. His own helplessness in the matter is painful.

If we could have the one term arrangement and no engagement for less than a year, the inspector might have the opportunity of making the government grant for the second payment contingent on fair honest work; but under the present order of things, when he returns on his semi-annual visit, he may find that even the register has not been correctly kept; nevertheless, the government money has been paid, and the unfaithful teacher has gone into some other section or district to play the same farce over again.

[Inspector James H. Munro.]

A gratifying feature deserving of mention, is the longer continuance of teachers in one section. At the beginning of the summer term, comparatively few changes were made, especially in Yarmouth district. This is a hopeful sign indicating that the trustees understand that frequent changes mean unprogressive schools and wasted funds. And may we not hope that teachers also are assisting to bring about this improvement?

The new course of studies is now fairly launched. The completeness of the course is its admirable feature. It ensures to the young people of our country a whole education in all that is necessary as a preparation for business, or as a foundation for collegiate training.

[Inspector L. S. Morse.]

It is gratifying to know that trustees and parents in many of our most desirable sections are growing in their appreciation of teachers who have received a normal training and who adopt normal methods of instruction. This fact is inducing larger numbers of our teachers to attend the normal school and to receive training at the hands of the competent staff of instructors in charge of that institution.

It is but just to add that those teachers who have succeeded in grading their schools as required, and in systematically following the course of work prescribed, are unanimous in their appreciation of its value as a guide to sound systematic instruction. On the other hand, the attention of those who have been

less successful in grading their school has been plainly called to the fact that the affidavit which they are required to make at the end of each term, obliges them to swear that they have taught according to law, which may now fairly be interpreted to mean, among other things, according to the course of study.

QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

Questions on scientific subjects may be addressed to EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, Pictou, N. S., to whom also all natural history specimens may be submitted for identification; those on ancient classics and mathematics to EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, Charlottetown, P. E. Island, and all questions on general subjects—English, school management, methods, etc.—to EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, St. John, N. B. On technical questions the editors will seek the views of teachers of experience, in order that this page may be of the greatest possible advantage to our teachers.

Questions and Answers.

H.—The enclosed sponge comes from the Baie de Chaleur. I have not observed it on the southern coast of New Brunswick. Please determine it.

Your sponge is a species of *Isodictya*, not uncommon in the gulf.

TEACHER.—From an article a few months ago in the REVIEW it appeared to be suggested that carbonic acid was not the only injurious constituent of badly ventilated schoolrooms. What else is injurious?

An answer to this is given in a late number of *Science*, in which it is stated that Prof. Brown-Séquard has recently been making experiments to determine whether the human breath was capable of producing any poisonous effects. From the condensed watery vapor of the expired air he obtained a poisonous liquid, which, when injected under the skin of rabbits, produced almost immediate death. He ascertained that the poison was an alkaloid, and not a microbe. The rabbits thus injected died without convulsions, the heart and large blood-vessels being engorged with blood. Brown-Séquard considers it fully proved that the expired air, both of man and animals, contains a volatile poisonous principle which is much more deleterious than carbonic acid." But as carbonic acid is more easily detected and quantitatively determined, its amount is in practice taken as the measure of the degree of contamination of air from the products of respiration.

D. M. S.—What course would you recommend for a beginner in botany?

Get such a book as Gray's "How Plants Grow," with Spotter's Botany, Part II.; or Gray's "School and Field Book of Botany," and examine, analyze and determine every different flowering plant as soon as you find it in bloom. A lens will be necessary for the examination of very small flowers. Do the work of determining the name of the plant yourself. That will compel you to study vegetable morphology as a