

Readings and Recitations.

THE BOY'S COMPLAINT.

Here are questions in physics and grammar
That would puzzle you somewhat, I know;
Can you tell what is meant by inertia?
Can you clearly define rain and snow?

Do you know there's a valve in the bellows?
Can you tell why your clock is too slow?
Why the pendulum needs looking after?
Perhaps it is swinging too low.

"They was going up town in the evening;"
Do you call that bad grammar, I say?
I'm sure Mary Jones and her mother
Say worse things than that every day.

But I s'pose "was" should be in the plural,
To agree with its old subject "they,"
According to rule,—my! I've lost it,
There's two per cent. gone right away,

And now, only look at the parsing,
And it will surely take in every rule,
And, down at the end, more false syntax,
With authorities given "in full."

Arithmetic? my! how I hate it;
I'm stupid at that in the class;
So, how in the name of creation,
Can I be expected to pass?

Here's a ten-acre lot to be fenced in,
Here is a duty to find on some tea,
Here's a problem in old alligation,
And a monstrous square-root one I see.

Can you tell who defeated the Indians?
Do you know who was killed in a duel?
Do you know what the first tax was raised on?
And how some just thought it was cruel?

Perhaps I may pass on an average;
If three-fourths are right I'll get through;
But my teacher calls such things shabby,
So what is a poor boy to do?

SPEAKING TO THE POINT.

[An addition having been made to the jail in Paterson, New Jersey, at a cost of \$30,000, the county officers and contractor celebrated the event by a banquet in the building. There were liquors in great abundance. After a number of toasts had been drunk, the gentleman presiding, a judge, proposed "the temperance cause." It was probably done because they were getting pretty drunk. Mr. Bantram, a temperance man, was called on to respond, and did so in the following stinging speech:]

"I thank you for this invitation, and I recognize its fitness. You have assembled to celebrate the enlargement of this jail, rendered necessary by the use of strong drink, in which you are so freely indulging this day. Down stairs the cells and corridors are crowded with criminals who have but changed places. A few years ago they were respected citizens, some of them occupying as responsible positions as those now occupied by yourselves; but they commenced as you have commenced, and they continued as many of you are continuing, and to-day they are reaping the harvest in a career of crime, and paying the penalty with a period of punishment. I hear the popping of corks. I listen to the merry voices, and the praises you are singing to the infernal spirit of wine; but there comes to me the refrain from the prisoner's cell, where a man is shedding penitential tears over his folly, accompanied by the still sadder wail of anguish uttered by the broken-hearted wife, worse than widowed through the traffic in strong drink, which, as a judge in your courts said, 'is the great promoter of crime,' a traffic licensed by your votes, and sustained by the patronage you are this day giving it. It is with inexpressible sadness that I discover that there can be found in Passaic county so many men with hearts so hardened, feelings so calloused, sensibilities so blunted, that in a place like this, under circumstances like these, they dare raise to their lips that which depraves the citizen, and endangers the state. Thanking you, gentlemen, for this unexpected privilege, I take my seat, fully conscious that you will never again call on me under similar circumstances."

Teachers' Associations.

The publishers of the JOURNAL will be obliged to Inspectors and Secretaries of Teachers' Associations if they will send for publication programmes of meetings to be held, and brief accounts of meetings held.

RENFREW.—Mr. Alford, the President, chose for the subject of his address, "The Discontent of Teachers," which arose, he thought, not from the worry of the work itself, but from the petty fault-finding of those who knew least about school matters, and from the poor salaries which teachers in general receive. He advocated the establishment of a Union, in which all should bind themselves not to teach for anything below a certain sum. Many teachers could not take the position which belonged to them and was open to them in the social ranks for want of money and fear of debt.—This matter was discussed at intervals during the Association, and the general idea seemed to be that the remedy rested with the teachers themselves, when they should cease to underbid one another. Mr. Raine, Principal of the Renfrew Model School, conducted a class in Fourth Book Literature, the selection being "The Burning of Moscow." The lesson was taken up in a conversational style. Mr. Campbell, of Arnprior, made a few remarks, and thought it was well to have the lesson read before taking up its literature. Mr. Kennedy, agent for Gage's Canadian Readers, spoke on the Reader question. He proceeded in a humorous and satirical style, drawing comparisons between the series in which he is interested and the Royal Readers. A committee was afterwards named, consisting of Messrs. Alford, Raine, Pounder and Dunn, and Misses Mitchell, Smallfield and Morgan, to look into the merits of the two series, and report next day. At the Arnprior meeting in May, Mr. W. B. C. Barclay gave notice of a motion to be introduced to fix the place for the holding of the Association meetings permanently at Renfrew, as they were always best attended there. In Mr. Barclay's absence, on Friday morning, Prof. Dawson made the motion and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Campbell suggested that the next meeting should be of an "Institute" character,—the teachers to form into classes and be questioned on selected subjects, as if they were pupils themselves. All were getting tired of the slow ways of the association, and wanted a change. Messrs. Raine and Dawson spoke in support of the idea, which was received with general favor. The teachers of the Renfrew schools were appointed a Committee of Management. The Reader Committee reported. They commended the literary excellence of the Royal Readers, but placed Gage's Canadian ahead of them for use in school-work. Mr. Ollum, headmaster of the Pembroke High School, on the subject of "Teaching Reading," laid particular stress on Articulation and Expression, and gave illustrations. The Secretary of the Association, Mr. A. D. Campbell, of Arnprior, for his efficient services extending over a period of two years and a half was voted the sum of \$25; and a resolution was passed to hereafter pay the Secretary \$10 a year. Mr. Corbett, of the Pembroke High School, then treated the subject of "Deductions Made Easy." He advocated synthetic solutions for beginners, with hints from the teacher; and then analytic, when harder problems were to be taken up. Mr. McDowell said that in his experience the synthetic was the method by which most deductions could be solved. In the afternoon, Mr. McDowell spoke on "Our Schools." His remarks were brief, yet they touched on many important points, and were the subject of considerable discussion. Of High Schools, he thought there should only be one in each county; he did not mean that there were too many teachers; but if all were gathered on one staff, work would be done much better. The present system of Model Schools was wrong,—it was an injury to the pupils. The Public and Model schools should be separate; or a separate room and additional teacher provided. The Model School training, however, was good. School Boards should engage teachers not for one year but for a term of years, for good conduct or till their usefulness was gone. Mr. Raine agreed with Mr. McDowell that a grouping of teachers in one place would make High Schools more efficient. Teachers could not better their positions so long as Inspectors granted permits. Inspectors should not have the power to grant permits because the people were too stingy to pay decent teachers. Mr. Ollum said that though some system of protection was needed in the matter of salaries, a County Union would be useless. Outsiders would underbid. Inspectors were powerless; for he believed some Boards would do without the grant or shut up the school rather than pay above a certain sum. Nothing can be done, unless there is legislation fixing a minimum rate. Teachers, however, could do some good for future generations of the profession by inculcating a spirit of liberality in the matter on the pupils of to-day. Prof. Dawson thought there should be a multiplicity of High Schools. It was not fair to make outside folks hewers of wood and drawers of water for favored or central sections. Teachers should cultivate an *esprit de corps*, and frown down upon any teacher underbidding another. Mr. Ollum, by request, read a couple of selections from one of the school books. He read with so much expression and impressiveness as to make some of his hearers sympathetically shudder during his rendering of portions of "Edinburgh after Flodden." Votes of thanks were given to