

annum. The retiring age of female teachers should be fixed at 55, and that of males at 60; while in case of premature death or leaving the profession, repayment (without interest) should be made of the premiums paid by teachers.

Is it not possible that all teachers in private as well as those in public schools might be included in such a pensionscheme if they so desired? I suppose that larger numbers would help to make it more successful.

Trusting that this initial letter will lead to a discussion of the existing Pension Act,

I remain, truly yours,

ROBERT M. SMITH.

Lachine Locks, Que., 12th January, 1891.

As our teachers still seem to be slow in making use of the Correspondence Department of our journal for the discussion of problems in connection with school routine, we cull from the correspondence column of the *Popular Educator* a few of the queries and answers given therein.

"I have much trouble in arranging the work for my pupils during study periods. Several of the brighter pupils have usually finished before the others have half begun. Then they get into mischief, or are restless. What can I do? The lessons cannot be made longer. If they should be, the slow pupils would become discouraged.—MARY L. P."

Can you not assign further work which the pupils *may be permitted* to do *after* finishing the regular class work? Commend what is well done, and note if any have accomplished more than the usual lesson. In this way the bright pupils may work ahead without embarrassing the slower ones. Let the extra work be chosen from some other book, to avoid useless repetition in class work.

"How soon ought children to obey in a primary class? I mean, how many times ought it to be necessary to speak to them?—E. E. E."

They should obey at once in any grade. It should be necessary to speak but once.

"Would you ever let children mark one another's slates? If not, why not?—EXPERIMENT."

If the children exchange slates, and correct carefully in the right spirit, it can do no harm. Such correction, however, should alternate with the teacher's own. It is well to change the order occasionally in passing the slates, so that they may not always be corrected by the same pupils. Guard against any dishonest or careless work, but do not seem to watch for it.

"I have a district school. None of the children in any class can write a letter properly. Should I expect it of them? And in what grade would you teach letter writing?—L. L. P."