

COURSE OF STUDY FOR COMMON SCHOOLS.

[Prescribed, 1893.]

GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

[Numbers of Paragraphs refer to corresponding columns of Time Table of Subjects in Register.]

65. *Callisthenics and Military Drill*.—As often as found expedient; but "physical exercises" should be given once in the middle of every session over one hour in length, and in the lower grades more frequently than in the higher. Recommended, "*Physical Drill*," (T. C. Allen & Co. Halifax,) for Common and High schools.

66. *Vocal Music*.—Every pupil (excepting of course those known to be organically defective as respects music), should be able to pass an examination in vocal music, before promotion to a higher grade. For the present the following minimum is prescribed for each grade. At least one simple song with its tonic-sol-fa notation for Grade I. An additional melody and its notation for each succeeding grade, with a correspondingly increased general knowledge of music. Vocal music may be combined with some forms of "physical exercise" as in marching and light movements. Recommended, "*National and Vacation Songs*," (Grafton & Sons, Montreal), for Common and High schools. Teachers musically defective may comply with the law by having these lessons given by any one qualified.

67. *Hygiene and Temperance*.—Orally in all grades, and as incidents or occasions may suggest. Text book for pupils use as follows: Grades V. and VI., Health Reader No. I. Grades VII. and VII., Health Reader, No. 2.

68. *Moral and Patriotic Duties*.—As enjoined by the School Law and when found most convenient and effective.

69. *Lessons on Nature*.—The noting, examination and study of the common and more important natural objects and laws of nature as they are exemplified within the range of the school Section or of the pupils' observations. Under this head pupils should not be required to memorize notes or facts which they have not at least to some extent actually observed or verified for themselves.

70. *Spelling and Dictation*.—It should be strictly insisted upon that, from the very commencement in the first grade, the pupil should spell every word read in lessons, and common words of similar difficulty used in his conversation. Writing words in the lower grades. Transcription and dictation in the higher grades should be utilized more and more as facility in writing increased.

71. *Reading and Elocution*.—1. Pupils must be enabled to clearly understand the portion to be read, then to read it with proper expression. 2. Faults of enunciation, pronunciation, &c., of tone, of posture and manner, &c., must be carefully noted and corrected. 3. Choice passages should be memorized occasionally for recitation with the proper expression. Ten lines per year at least for Grade I, twenty lines at least for Grade II., and a similar increase for each succeeding grade, is prescribed. Reading should be taught at first, partly at least, by word building from the phonic elements, occasionally drills of this kind being continued in all the grades to obtain clear enunciation.

72. *English*.—In all grades practice should constantly be given in expressing the substance of stories, lessons, or observations, orally in correct language, and in the higher grades in writing also. Discussion of subject matter of lesson. Attention to the use of capitals, punctuation marks, paragraphing, &c., should be introduced gradually and regularly, so that at the end of the common school course, language in correct form can be fluently used in description or business letters, orally and in writing. The practical rather than the theoretical knowledge of English is what is specially required in the common school, and a large portion of the school time should be given to it. Pupils should be continually exercised in finding synonyms or substituting "their own made meanings" for difficult words in their reading lessons, instead of merely memorizing definitions often given at head of lesson.

73. *Writing*.—Styles most easy to read should be cultivated. Simple vertical writing is generally preferable to the sloping styles. No exercise in writing should be accepted by the teacher from the pupil unless its form shows evidence of care. Should begin in the first grade with letters formed from the simple elements properly classified, and taught in the order of difficulty.

77. *Drawing*.—Langdon S. Thompson's "*Manual Training*, No. I," is recommended to the teacher as covering to some extent the *Drawing and Lessons on Nature* as they may be taught to pupils of the first five or six grades. With Thompson's Primary Freehand Manual, in addition, the teacher will have a sufficient guide for the work in drawing up to Grade VII. for the present. The "*American Drawing Cards*," first and second series, may also be advantageously used to this stage. Drawing of objects studied under the head of Nature Lessons to be constantly practised, and carried on even in the High school.