

ercise should be practiced for its direct relation to some letter which is to be practiced next. One would hardly practice chinning himself as a suitable warming up exercise for kicking a football. It is almost equally absurd to practice the large direct oval exercises preparatory to making a letter which does not employ this movement, such as capital K. The direct oval movement appropriately precedes such letters as A, O, E, etc. The copies used should be carefully graded and lead somewhere definitely. It is absurd to introduce long, hard sentences, proverbs, etc., as some copybooks do, when the essentials of movement have not been mastered.

To improve writing the learner must concentrate on the thing to be done. Position and movement must be easy and comfortable. With conditions right physically, the learner must be actuated by a desire to improve and must make many comparisons mentally. Self criticism is important. On frequent occasions pupils should be required to stop and criticise their work, marking

the most glaring inaccuracies in this or a similar manner. Practice without frequent comparisons and self-criticisms tends only to confirm pupils in their errors.

Each pupil should be required to make a complete page of some copy or exercise for filing, at least once a week. Keep such copies in regular order until the end of a term or until the midyear. These may then be arranged in booklets, placing the sheets consecutively so as to show the improvement made. Cover pages ornamented with borders of ovals and other exercises may be made. Hold an exhibit of this material and ask the pupils or their parents to decide who have made commendable improvement.

A space in the room may be used regularly to exhibit good work (which is not always the best writing, necessarily.) Any one who has practiced faithfully and has shown progress should be honored. Pupils will work to have a page exhibited with much the same spirit an artist will work to have his painting put on exhibition.

School News

CONVENTION OF TEACHERS, ST. JAMES

The annual convention of Inspectoral Division No. 17 was held on Thursday and Friday, November 20 and 21 respectively, in St. James School with Mr. E. A. Ross, Britannia School, presiding.

On Thursday morning the convention was divided into rural and graded sections.

In the rural section "Handwork in Rural Schools" was dealt with by W. J. Williams. Talks on "Nature Study" were given by Miss Clara Bird, and by Mrs. Singleton. These were followed by the interesting address of Inspector Williams, Winnipeg, on "Teaching of English to Non-English speaking Children."

In the graded section "A Morning's Work," a new feature, claimed the attention of the teachers of Grades 1 and 2. Grades 3 and 4 were provided for by a round table conference, while a lesson in geography, "The Study of a Continent", taught by Miss Dohaney, Sturgeon Creek School, proved helpful to teachers of Grades 5 and 6. A class lesson on "Julius Caesar" by T. J. Watts, St. James School, attracted the teachers of Grades 7 and 8. The morning session finished with a talk on "Oral Reading" given by Inspector Parker.

The afternoon session was opened by J. W. Godkin, chairman of the St. James School Board, who in his address