

McLeod, B.A.; J. Y. Payzant, M.A.; B. H. Eaton, M.A.; Rev. Dr. Hopper, Rev. W. H. Warren, M.A.; J. A. Durkee, M.A.

The place of the customary oration before the associated alumni was this year filled by a most appropriate service commemorative of the life and labors of Dr. Cramp, ex-president of the college. Eloquent and appreciative addresses were delivered by the following gentlemen:—Rev. Dr. Sawyer on the "General history of the deceased scholar;" Rev. Dr. Bill, on "Dr. Cramp as a preacher;" T. H. Rand, D.O.L., on "Dr. Cramp as a teacher;" A. Langley, on "Dr. Cramp as a temperance worker."

The annual dinner of the associated alumni was a brilliant occasion. Toasts were given and responded to as follows:—"The faculty of Acadia college." Responded to by Dr. Sawyer and Dr. Higgins. "The graduating class of 1882." Responded to by H. W. Moore, B.A. "The governors of Acadia." Responded to by B. H. Eaton, M.A. "The fellows and scholars." Responded to by Rev. W. H. Warren, M.A. D. B. Woodworth was called for by some friend, and in response spoke eloquently on the Great North West—Manitoba. "Our sister colleges." Responded to by Prof. Forrest, of Dalhousie college, and Dr. Hall of the normal school at Truro. "The Press." Responded to by Rev. R. Murray, of the *Presbyterian Witness*, and S. Seldon, of the *Christian Messenger*. "Visiting friends." Responded to by Dr. Willard, of Providence, R.I., a teacher of forty years ago in Horton academy. "The ladies' seminary," spoken to by Rev. G. F. Miles.

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.

N. SIMCOE.—Held in the model school, Barrie, on the 9th and 10th June. The attendance was large, the programme well supported, and the several subjects received such an amount of good practical criticism that much important information was elicited. Shortly after 10 a.m. the proceedings were opened by J. C. Morgan, M.A., I.P.S., president, who stated that while he thought the convention should be held on two teaching days, and intended to carry out his view on future occasions, he had good reasons for the change this time, as it enabled him to obtain the invaluable services of Mr. J. L. Hughes for the public lecture, and an address at regular session. The minutes of previous meeting were read by Mr. J. B. Carruthers, sec.-treas. and adopted. Mr. D. Finlayson showed how he would teach grammar to a class preparing for entrance examination. Mr. H. B. Spotton, M.A., thought common errors of false syntax should be noted and corrections made; if such were given in the text-book it would be a great advantage. Messrs. Hunter, Harvey, McKee, and others, continued an advantageous discussion on the subject. Roll was then called, after which Mr. W. Finney gave an exposition of the several methods of teaching vocal music; which, he maintained, should be taught in the public school. He commended the tonic sol-fa as the most easily acquired and satisfactory in result. H. B. Spotton, M.A., H.M., Barrie coll. inst., gave a very interesting and able address on the "The future of the intermediate examination." He had heard it said that "the track of the intermediate examination is marked by the whitened bones of the candidates" through the failure of so many to pass. The presence of a large number at these examinations may be accounted for by the fact that a result's fee of about sixty dollars was secured to the school for every candidate who passed. The objections were that the schools were turned into "education mills" to the mental injury of the pupil; the continual strain upon the teacher was injurious to health and many had to give it up; the teacher's abilities were often judged by the number whom he succeeded in passing, and he often unjustly suffered thereby. It is frequently difficult to get pupils to go up for examination, especially as passing is only an honor which counts for nothing in the professions except that of teaching; pupils would willingly forego this honor but they were urged to it for the sake of the fee. Bonuses were offered by teachers to draw away pupils from the schools of their own counties, which was the most unpleasant feature in the matter. Some schools had sent out advertising agents to "show their wares" and draw away pupils from good schools. On the other side of the question the condition of the high schools is enormously improved. Mr. Spotton criticised the marking at the last examination showing some anomalies that obtained. The present difficulty in the high school is how to manage the arrangement of classes so as to separate those preparing for teachers from those who are not candidates for examination. He read from Dr. McLellan's report recommending that there should be a distinction made; and he (the speaker)

would urge a distinct class for botany, chemistry, and physiology. On the motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Hunter, a committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. Spotton, M.A., Williams, B.A., and Ryerson, B.A., representing the high schools, and Messrs. Harvey, McKee, and Waugh representing the public schools, to embody the recommendations made by Mr. Spotton and to bring in a report. Mr. T. Young gave a prelection on the "Importance of history" and the objects to be kept in view in teaching it. The matter was wisely dealt with and a very practical discussion ensued. The president would agree to have history taught to children if the first two letters of the word were deleted and it became "story." Mr. G. McKinnell read an essay on book-keeping which was well criticised by Messrs. Finney, Harvey, Jenison, and Furlong, and on the motion of Mr. Harvey a committee consisting of Messrs. McKinnell, Jenison, and Furlong was appointed to consider the place it should occupy in public schools, and to report. Mr. Johnston read a short paper on "Composition" which opened up a most profitable discussion on the subject, in which Mr. McKee of Orillia gave some admirable hints, and Messrs. Finney, Jenison, Sneath, and Hume took part. Mr. Little's paper on "Elementary arithmetic" was rather more prolix than the subject warranted and presented no debatable points. The report of the committee on book-keeping was postponed till next convention. Mr. D. Boyle, representing the Canada Publishing Co., addressed the association on the merits of the series of readers to be published by that house, and Mr. J. L. Robertson, from the firm of W. J. Gage & Co., exhibited a set of new Canadian readers and pointed out the many features of excellence the books possess. On the motion of Mr. Spotton, seconded by Mr. Williams, a committee was appointed to examine these series and report at next convention. In the evening an appreciative audience assembled in the Town Hall to enjoy a lecture given by J. L. Hughes Esq., inspector of schools, Toronto, on "Schoolroom humor." The chair was occupied by the president of the association, and at the close of an address in which the lights and shadows of school life were inimitably and graphically depicted, the talented lecturer was, on the motion of Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Jenison, accorded the thanks of the meeting by rising vote and acclamation. *Second Day.* After roll-call Mr. Hughes showed how drawing could be made a useful and pleasant branch of public school study, which made such an impression on the meeting that Mr. Sneath proposed, Mr. Hume seconded, and it was unanimously resolved, "That when the school of art is established in the normal school, Toronto, the teachers in training be instructed in the principles of drawing." Mr. Spotton brought in committee report as follows:—"That this association desires to express its strong approval of the proposal to separate the intermediate examination from the public school teachers' examination, to restore the intermediate to its original position as a promotion examination, and to give greater flexibility to the course of students by the introduction of an optional group comprising botany, chemistry, and physiology; and this association is also of opinion, that, in order to obviate the evil of cramming for teachers' examinations, a minimum period of preparation, say two years after completing the work of the fifth class in public schools, should be insisted on." The importance of individual study of educational works and the benefit arising from the discussion of their subject matter at the semi-annual meetings was brought before the notice of the association and a committee was appointed to report, which they did as follows:—"Your committee appointed to recommend an educational work for study between now and the next convention beg to recommend Park's Manual of Methods as a suitable work for the purpose in view. They also recommend that the circulars issued by Stieger & Co. in reference to the kindergarten be sent for, so that the members of the association may obtain some knowledge of the working of that system." J. M. Hunter, M.A., presented the report and moved its adoption; it was seconded by Mr. Sneath and carried. Miss C. Lafferty, Orillia public school, with a second class brought from her own school, exemplified her method of teaching reading. If results are the best proof of a method Miss Lafferty's is singularly successful, for the little ones read with a fluency, modulation and general intelligence that reflected the highest credit on her system, and their neat appearance did honor to their town. Her plan is to read a passage first herself, and get the children to underline emphasized words, then to read simultaneously; this is done as a preparation. Next day the pupils make their own corrections in style, pronunciation and inflection. Mr. Hughes complimented Miss Lafferty highly on her success, and several of the teachers present expressed their gratification at giving them such an admirable plan to follow up in their own schools. Messrs. Jenison and Neil Campbell were appointed auditors. The financial report was read which showed a balance to credit of \$20.16; passed. The president vacated the chair and proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hughes for his valuable assistance; seconded by Mr. Sneath and carried with applause. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, J. C. Morgan, M.A., I.P.S.; vice-pres., J. M. Hunter, M.A.; sec.-treas., J. B. Carruthers; managing com., Miss Lafferty, Messrs. G. Sneath, Young, Campbell, and McKee. Delegates to provincial association Messrs. Harvey, Hunter, and Sneath. After a few eloquent words of encouragement from the president, and the transaction of some routine business, the convention adjourned to meet next time in Orillia.