

every day needs of mechanics. This soon made it necessary to start more extensive classes as the apprentices took hold of it, until at the present time these apprentice classes are held at all the important centres on the system.

The subjects taught are graded to suit the student's ability, from simple arithmetic to higher mathematics, machine design and mechanical drawing. The entire cost of education at these classes is borne by the Railway Company, who furnish all the equipment and engage the instructors, who must themselves have had a thorough technical and practical training, so as to be able to anticipate the needs of the apprentice. The boys are supplied with individual desks and drawing boards and have to take care of them. Every year advances are being made in the equipment of the class rooms making it more comfortable and interesting for the boys. For two evenings per week during the fall and winter months the apprentice must attend mechanical drawings classes, study of practical mechanics and elementary electricity, the most competent instructors procurable being provided. On the staff are two graduates of American and Canadian engineering colleges, Purdue and McGill. The work in the drawing classes is outlined in a special text-book written by the Company's chief draughtsman at Montreal, who is also the author of the book used on practical mechanics. During the term frequent examinations are held, and the points gained by each boy are posted so that they may all keep advised as to just what progress they are making, and thereby be able to brush up the weak spots that the examinations have disclosed.

The Master Mechanic is constantly in touch with each boy's progress and standing, and if necessary he frequently calls a boy up, and in a kindly manner points out to him the necessity of applying himself more consistently to bring his rating up to the required standard.

The annual competitive examination is always conducted by the Company's Chief Draughtsman from Montreal, and has just been completed at all the large shops along the system. Prizes are awarded to the apprentices obtaining the highest averages in their respective years. These prizes amount to \$40.00 for each shop, and are distributed over the different years of the apprenticeship, thus:—The apprentice obtaining the highest average for his first year in mechanical drawing gets \$4.00, and the one obtaining the highest in practical mechanics gets \$4.00 also. There it is quite possible for one apprentice to obtain both prizes. A keen interest is taken in this examination which takes the form of a contest between the various shops.

In addition to the prizes as stated above there is a capital prize offered of \$25.00 for each subject. This is competed