

# THE NEW BRUNSWICK JOURNAL of EDUCATION.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF TEACHERS.

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## New Brunswick Journal of Education.

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MAY the year just opened be marked with more than ordinary educational advance in our New Brunswick schools.

For the patronage we have received from both subscribers and advertisers, during the past half year, we are deeply grateful.

DURING the past term 64 schools were open in the city of St. John, and the number of pupils enrolled was 4,154; present on an average 3,225; per centage of enrolled pupils daily present on an average, 77.70.

THE progress of the JOURNAL OF EDUCATION, for this year, will mark our educational progress. If it receive that cordial material support that may justify its continuance, it will be significant that we are determined to take no backward step.

WHAT do our teachers read? How many have a regular course of reading with a definite plan in view? Is it not possible, in many districts, to organize local reading circles, in which the larger scholars and many of the parents would become interested?

THIS journal is invaluable to many young teachers in this Province who may not even know of its existence. Will its friends, who may be making some excellent resolutions at this time of the year, resolve to secure one new subscriber at least for us, or at any rate ask us to send a sample copy of the JOURNAL to a friend who may become a subscriber.

HOW many of our readers have received the JOURNAL from the first number, and have failed to respond by sending us a note, that they receive it, are being profited by it, and they wish to have it continued. Very many of such have been received. But there is a minority from whom we have not heard. Begin the New Year with a clean account, and be credited on our books with a paid up subscription for what, we hope, you are unwilling to do without—an eight page journal, for the modest price of four cents a month, which has already contained more than two hundred valuable articles on educational subjects!

In the *American Naturalist*, for November, is an article by W. F. Ganong, A. M., now studying at Cambridge. It aims to show that one of our most common mollusks in the Bay of Fundy—*Littorina littorea* (the English periwinkle)—is an introduced species on this continent, and not indigenous as some have supposed. Mr. J. Willis, of Halifax,

was the first to make it known on this continent in 1857. Mr. G. F. Matthew, in his investigation of shell heaps on the shores of Passamaquoddy Bay, finds no trace of it. It is now very abundant from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Connecticut, and Sir Wm. Dawson is of the opinion that the shell is indigenous to this country.

### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF 1887.

The committee to arrange for this year's Provincial Educational Institute met at Fredericton last week. The institute will probably be summoned to meet at St. John on the last three days of June next. The programme, as arranged, embraces some important topics, the discussion of which, among teachers representing all sections of the Province, should not fail to arouse a renewed interest in these educational gatherings. The last institute was one of the most successful ever held in the Province. The attendance was large and representative, the subjects discussed had a most important bearing on practical education, and the fullest opportunity was given to all to express their opinions freely.

The main purposes of these institutes, we take it, are to increase the efficiency of our public schools, to stimulate activity in newer and better educational methods, to obtain the experience of mature and advanced educationists and make it common property, to arouse the careless and indifferent, and to promote an *esprit du corps* among our teachers by which a generous emulation in educational work is fostered. To secure these ends subjects should be approached and discussed in an earnest spirit. Those who address the institute influence their hearers for good or otherwise; if they treat a subject in an intelligent and earnest spirit, with a view to give practical help and encouragement to their fellow-teachers, the minds of their listeners will become receptive and the enthusiasm will be catching. Errors in method, and faults, if pointed out in the proper spirit, will be received in the same spirit. It, on the contrary, want of sympathy in educational work, or a spirit of fault-finding characterize these discussions, the result is depressing and harmful. The minds of our readers will revert to just such addresses: to some, in which they have been strengthened and instructed, to others, where a directly opposite effect has been produced.

There is another fruitful topic of discussion at our educational institutes. We refer to the subject of "grievances," real or imaginary. Too often these have been allowed, contrary to all rules of order, to enter into a discussion and destroy the effect of subjects upon which members of the institute were eager to be enlightened. A gathering of educationists means in New Brunswick precisely what it means in other parts of the world—a gathering of earnest men and women, eager to avail themselves of the results of new methods, new thought and ripe experience in their profession. But should not faults in the working of our school system and real grievances be legitimate subjects of discussion at these gatherings? Undoubtedly. Who is better fitted to judge of the workings of our system of education than an in-

telligent and practical teacher. And what more fitting place for such discussion than at the Provincial Institute? Let common sense be the arbiter of what is proper to bring before the institute in the matter of subjects of administration. Let the time and place of such subjects be appointed, and let them not be dragged in to the exclusion of legitimate subjects. Let them be discussed with the force that their importance demands, but in a dignified spirit; and when the members of the institute have reached a decision on matters in which they believe a change to be desirable, or a grievance should be removed, let them take the proper course to place the result of their deliberations before the Board of Education.

The following subjects for discussion at the approaching institute have been named, and we take the earliest opportunity to present the list to our readers, in order that they may be prepared to take an intelligent interest in their discussion: Inspection—its place in our school system; school sanitation; domestic economy; principles of good reading, with illustrations; methods of teaching English in ungraded schools and in graded schools as far as the 6th grade; methods of teaching agriculture; scientific instruction in schools. On the second day those interested in the grammar and superior schools will meet for the discussion of a course of instruction for these schools. A public meeting will be held on the evening of the day, on which the institute convenes, at which addresses will be delivered by those who attended the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in London. The institute will close with a conversation.

### SCHOLARSHIPS.

A short time ago we chronicled the death of Dr. Jack, who for many years was connected with our provincial university.

As a recognition of his services, it is proposed by the graduates of the U. N. B., and the many friends of Dr. Jack, to found a scholarship in the U. N. B. to be called "The Brydson-Jack Scholarship." Probably it would be given in mathematics and the manner in which it would be awarded could be mutually agreed upon by all concerned. To carry this out one thousand dollars would be required. Considering the number of graduates this should not bear heavily on the pockets. We sincerely hope that the Scholarship will be established and that graduates and friends will alike contribute something to perpetuate the memory of one who for many years was connected with the higher education of our fair province.

"SEMPER PARATUS."

COSTER MEMORIAL PRIZE.—Collin H. Livingstone writes from New York, that he proposes giving under this title a richly bound and handsomely printed in folio set of Dante's works (Inferno, Purgatorio and Paradiso), profusely illustrated by Gustave Doré, for competition among the boys of the highest department of the St. John grammar school, the subject to be given hereafter. In writing of this to the chairman of the board he says, "I hope you may approve of this slight attempt to perpetuate the memory of one of the grandest of men." It is pleasant to record such recognition of a former preceptor; and especially one who was so justly beloved as Dr. Coster, principal of the grammar school. Mr. Livingstone is making his mark in New York; where he is now a lecturer in English literature in the Gramercy Park College of Technology.—Sun.

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