

fully? The teacher herself must be a good reader, especially for the benefit of the small children. The speaker mentioned many suitable books for supplementary reading in all grades and which should find a place in school libraries, which should be more liberally provided. The teachers and pupils can aid these in many ways; if in no other, by judicious clippings on the part of the teachers.

Mr. McLean, Principal of the St. John Grammar School, addressed the Institute on the subject, "Does the present course of study meet the requirements as regards the practical education of the majority of the children." The majority of our pupils never spend more than five years in our schools, and are not fully reaping the benefits intended for them. We should exact attendance or shorten the course, so that the fullest benefits may be obtained during the time of actual attendance. Five years' work in country schools is equivalent to eight years in the city. We should cover the same ground in the same time in the city. A full discussion was asked for by the speaker.

The discussion on both papers was participated in by Mrs. Dieuaide, Inspector Bridges, Miss Beatrice Duke, William Loggie, Miss Hanson, Inspector Smith, S. C. Wilbur, Miss Fullerton, Geo. J. Oulton, James Vroom, P. Cox, W. P. Jonah.

#### FIFTH SESSION.

Dr. Inch informed the Institute that a catalogue of books suitable for school libraries would be prepared at an early date.

The Institute passed a resolution testifying its appreciation of the services for education of the late Mr. F. H. Hayes and its sympathy for his widow. Several members of the Institute, including the Chief Superintendent and Inspector Bridges, paid a warm tribute to the worth and faithfulness of the deceased.

A cordial vote of thanks was tendered the ex-Secretary, H. C. Creed, A. M., for his faithful and able services for the past fifteen years—dating from the inception of the Institute. Mr. Creed, during the course of a feeling reply, stated that only one member present—Miss Grace Murphy, St. John—had attended, with himself, every meeting of the Institute.

Votes of thanks were tendered the Press, School Trustees of St. John, the ladies and gentlemen who had furnished music and addresses at the public educational meeting, and to the teachers of St. John for the conversazione entertaining the visitors.

The election of a representative to the Senate of the N. B. University took place. Inspector Carter, Philip Cox, Wm. M. McLean and S. C. Wilbur were

nominated. The two latter declined. The vote stood as follows: Inspector Carter, 164; Mr. Cox, 156. Inspector Carter thanked the Institute for the honor conferred on him, and said he would try to fill worthily and to the best interests of the Institute the office to which he had been appointed.

The President announced the appointment of the following advisory committee on text-books: B. O. Foster, P. Cox, W. M. McLean, G. U. Hay, P. G. McFarlane, J. G. A. Belyea, Mrs. Dieuaide, Miss Fawcett, S. C. Wilbur, R. P. Steeves.

Messrs. Brodie, Parlee and G. A. Inch were appointed a committee to consider the subject of grading in connection with the suggestions made by Mr. Brodie in his paper.

Mr. G. U. Hay read a paper on "How Best to Carry out a Course of Natural Science from the Primary to the High School." He referred to the aim of any study—first, to acquire facts, and second, to form habits of observation, correct modes of thinking, and to show the relation of one fact to another. Natural science subjects were well fitted to secure this second and most important aim. He urged that the natural objects and features of scenery in the pupils' immediate neighborhood, with the phenomena of every day occurrence, be made the subjects of study. The ever open book of nature was therefore the best text-book. It was not necessary that teachers be learned in natural science in order to teach it successfully. An interest in it, a spirit of inquiry, a sympathy for nature, a working with the pupils and leading them to overcome their difficulties, were of the greatest importance.

Mr. J. Brittain, of the Normal School, followed, urging teachers to lead their pupils to observe and think, and gave several instances, showing the importance of botany, especially in cultivating the powers of observation. He illustrated the use of the wing attached to the seed of the Silver Maple, describing in a very interesting manner the habitat and mode of growth of that beautiful tree. He presented seeds to the teachers present, urging them to plant these.

The Institute adjourned.

#### NOTES.

The attendance was very large, numbering about 270 members.

The papers read at the Institute will be published, probably in a supplement to the REVIEW.

A cordial vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Inch for the impartial manner in which he had conducted the proceedings, to which he made a suitable response.

Mr. W. C. Simpson acted as assistant Secretary to the Institute.

A very pleasant and enjoyable conversazione was held on Thursday evening, after the close of the Institute, and the committee of St. John teachers who managed the affair performed their duty in an admirable manner.