

Closing Examinations.

Cannot the system of which this country is so justly proud be so altered that the strain and anxiety of school examinations shall not come just as the trying heat of summer begins? There can be no defense of a policy that crowds so many responsibilities and probationary trials into a heated term when the well seasoned adult mind becomes as nearly dormant as considerations for the safety of life and property will permit. It is a serious question whether either teachers or pupils should be subjected to the drudgery of school life when the chief end of present existence with the rest of the world, is to find protecting shade and cooling breezes. It is sheer cruelty to overtax the mental as well as the physical powers of children under such circumstances, and it is wanton torture to impose the most difficult burdens of the year. It is impossible to overvalue the possession of a good education, but if the search for it leads to an early death, to health permanently impaired, to shattered nerves or permanent mental disabilities, the price paid is entirely too high. Give the teachers and children a chance. Give them their hardest work when it can best be endured and pursue that sensible course which will insure us a sturdy as well as an intelligent citizenship. The doctors and the undertakers have too big a share in the results of our present educational methods.—*Detroit Free Press.*

During the vacation renew your botanical acquaintance with the plants and flowers; hunt up your geological friends, the rocks and metals; study animal life; become intimate again with the birds; think on these things; consider the air, the water, how things grow, the purposes of the Creator respecting them; get close to Nature; give heed to her teachings; read a good book while you swing in a hammock, or rest under the shade of a great tree, or look out upon the ocean.—*New Education.*

Vertical writing, as it is called, has come to stay. It may not meet the approval of those who have been exceptionally successful in teaching and perpetuating the sloping hand, but it is growing in favor with remarkable rapidity. The walk and conversation of mankind may not be more upright than before, but there is certainly a tendency, even among old writers, to make their handwriting more upright. It is insensibly modifying the penmanship of to-day.—*New Education.*

An antidote to cheap, superficial method training for mere show is the crying need of the times. We have been led widely astray by the luring phantom of a royal road to learning. No such road exists save the truly kingly road of work.—*Professor Bryant.*

The Art of Teaching.

To teach mankind some truth
So dearly purchased—only then I found
Such teaching was an art requiring cares
And qualities peculiar to itself;
That to possess was one thing—to display
Another. —*Browning.*

Teachers' Salaries.

At a recent meeting of the St. Stephen, N. B., school board, G. W. Ganong, Esq., one of the trustees, proposed the following resolutions:

First. That the salaries of the teachers of the high school and grammar school shall stand as they are.

Second. That the minimum salary of female teachers holding first class certificates, shall be at the rate of \$260.00 per year, or \$130.00 per term, as at present.

That after two years' active service at this salary, during which time the school shall have been conducted to the entire satisfaction of the board of trustees, the principal of the high school, county inspector, and other school officers, an advance of \$10.00 per term will be paid for the third year, on condition the school shall have been conducted continuously and satisfactorily to above officers, the advance to be paid after the year shall have been completed.

That for the fourth year's active service, a further advance of \$10.00 per term, shall be paid on conditions and in manner above.

That for the fifth year's active service, a further advance of \$10.00 shall be paid on conditions and in manner above, thus making the salary \$160.00 per term, which shall be the maximum salary.

That should a teacher be engaged as supply, and afterwards continued on the staff, the term so supplied shall count as if permanently on the staff.

That the conditions before stated shall, for the future, apply to all teachers at present on our staff as respects their relative terms of employment up to this date, including assistant teachers.

That the board of trustees shall not hereby bind themselves to pay any amount in excess of the minimum salary in any year, and that no contract shall be made with any teacher in excess of that amount.

The living question is thus stated by President Cook of the Illinois normal school: "I mistake the temper of the times, if there is not a growing conviction that the only way to have a school is to have a teacher."

The two pillars of school education are good behavior and intellectual training. The good school by its discipline secures obedience to order and habitual respect to the rights of others, regularity, punctuality, silence, industry, truth-telling, courtesy, a kindly fellow-feeling for others—these are the elements of good behavior as found in schools.