

## QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

The editors do not bind themselves to answer all questions that may be submitted to this Department, and this refers chiefly to catch questions, the answers to which would benefit no one in particular, and to simple ones that may be answered with a little thought and research. Questions on scientific subjects may be addressed to EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, Pictou, N. S., to whom also all natural history specimens may be submitted for identification; those on ancient classics and mathematics to EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, Charlottetown, P. E. Island, and all questions on general subjects—English, school management, methods, etc.—to EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, St. John, N. B. On technical questions the editors will seek the views of teachers of experience, in order that this page may be of the greatest possible advantage to our teachers.

## Questions and Answers.

What are the botanical names of the numbered plants?—B. F.

No. 1 is *Viola pubescens*; 2, *Claytonia Caroliniana*; 3, *Erythronium Americanum*; 4, *Hepatica triloba*; 5, *Uvularia sessilifolia*; 6, *Sanguinaria Canadensis*; 7, *Dicentra cucullaria*.

What are the numbered specimens sent herewith?—M. Y.

No. 1 is a moss, *Bartramia pomiformis*, (apple moss); 2 is a lichen, *Peltigera canina* (mad dog lichen); 3, is a lichen, *Usnea barbata*. (Tree beard).

What is the best book to assist a teacher in giving the lessons on nature in the prescribed course.—B. M. D.

There is no good book adapted to this country. A book written by Dr. Bailey, and prescribed for New Brunswick schools, will shortly be issued from the press of J. & A. McMillan, St. John.

## SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

Six young ladies of the Victoria High School, St. John, were examined last week for admission into the N. B. University.

How would an annual term system work in Nova Scotia? Say an autumn session, from September to Christmas vacation; a winter session to the Easter vacation; a spring session to July, when the school year would end. What is the experience in N. B. and P. E. I. bearing on the question?

Dalhousie College is going to boom next year. Sir William Young has just left about \$70,000, and next fall a magnificent building with all modern improvements, on a splendid site, will be opened. The President will soon surprise the public with the magnitude of the advance made by the institution since his election.

One of the elements, it would appear, which determines the general superiority of the Prince of Wales students at the universities, is the fact that all their teachers corresponding to the Nova Scotian grades B and C, require a knowledge of the ancient classics. Nova Scotian teachers have generally to commence at the rudiments of the classics when they determine to go to college, and consequently are not so likely to be well grounded.

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF N. B.

## MESSRS. EDITORS:

The advertisement in this issue of the REVIEW contains information of the time and place appointed for the approaching meeting of the Provincial Institute. In view of the large attendance last June, and the unusually pleasing character of the proceedings, it is expected that, both in numbers and interest, the gathering in this jubilee year will surpass the most of those heretofore held.

The executive committee has arranged the following

## PROGRAMME.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON: Enrolment. Routine business.

TUESDAY EVENING: Public educational meeting. Short speeches.

WEDNESDAY MORNING: (1) *School inspection—its place and importance*; discussion opened by Inspector Mersereau. (2) *School sanitation*—introduced by the Chief Superintendent.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON: A. Common school section. (1) *How should English be taught in ungraded schools, and in the first six standards of graded schools?*—discussion opened by Mr. James Barry, Miss E. McLachlan and Miss Grace Murphy. (2) *Domestic economy in schools*—discussion opened by Mrs. M. M. Carr.

B. Grammar and superior school section. Reports of special committees on courses of instruction.

WEDNESDAY EVENING: Observations on the educational exhibit of New Brunswick at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition of 1886—by Messrs. E. Mullin, M. A., Jno. March, M. A., and G. R. Parkin, M. A.

THURSDAY MORNING: (1) Report of Grammar and Superior school section. (2) *The teaching of agriculture in the public schools*—discussion opened by Mr. S. C. Wilbur, B. A.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON: (1) *Scientific instruction in schools*—discussion opened by Mr. John Brittain. (2) *The principles of good reading* (with illustrations)—address by Prof. J. Burwash, M. A. (3) Election of executive committee.

THURSDAY EVENING: (1) General business. (2) *Conversations*.

There will be good music at the evening sessions, as usual.

As Professors in the University, and all school officers—as trustees and their secretaries are—equally eligible with teachers, for membership in the Educational Institute, and as the work of several sessions, at least, will be of a character to interest such persons, it is hoped that many of them will be present.

It is probable that there will be brought before the Institute a proposal from the executive committee of the Provincial Educational Association of Nova Scotia, for the holding of a central educational meeting for the Maritime Provinces in 1888. Out of this may grow a permanent inter-provincial conference of teachers, meeting perhaps in alternate years with the Provincial bodies. Such an arrangement would obviously afford many advantages.

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