

The Canada School Journal.

VOL. V.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1880.

No. 40.

The Canada School Journal

IS PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH AT

11 WELLINGTON ST. WEST, TORONTO, ONT., CAN.

Subscription \$1.00 per year, payable in advance.

Address—W. J. GAGE & CO., Toronto.

CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL HAS RECEIVED

An Honorable Mention at Paris Exhibition, 1878.

Recommended by the Minister of Education for Ontario.

Recommended by the Council of Public Instruction, Quebec.

Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, New Brunswick.

Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Nova Scotia.

Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, British Columbia.

Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Manitoba.

The Publishers frequently receive letters from their friends complaining of the non-receipt of the JOURNAL. In explanation they would state, as subscriptions are necessarily payable in advance, the mailing clerks have instructions to discontinue the paper when a subscription expires. The clerks are, of course, unable to make any distinction in a list containing names from all parts of the United States and Canada.

THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ON CRAMMING.

The Dominion Medical Association had quite a lively discussion on the impropriety of forcing the brains of young children to perform too much and too exhaustive work. The address of Dr. Grant, who opened the discussion, will be found in another column of the JOURNAL. It is well that the medical profession should speak freely and clearly on the matter. It is to be regretted, however, that its members should assume that the teaching profession are in opposition to them in their good work. This is not the case. The teachers were the first to propose a remedy for the evil of giving children abstract work, and long hours before the age of seven years. The teachers in all parts of the world long ago reached the grumbling stage in which the doctors in Europe and America now find themselves, and thoughtful men and women have for years been planning and carrying into execution numerous methods for accomplishing what Dr. Grant so properly demands; viz., "that up till the age of seven the school work of the child should assume the form of play." The statement of Dr. Grant that "new subjects are added to the programme of studies year by year," is not correct. The work has been reduced during the past 3 years.

Dr. Grant was on solid ground when he attributed the evil effects of school life to badly lighted and ventilated school houses. The whole system, physical and mental, is debilitated more by these causes than by the "cramming," which exists very often in the imagination of ardent writers and speakers. There are pupils who cram, but for every one who crams because of pressure brought by the teacher, there are ten who cram on account of the ambition of their parents or themselves, or as the result of badly balanced mental and physical constitutions. Let the Kindergarten precede and leaven the primary public school, let the school house be well lighted and ventilated, and let the pupils have plenty of physical exercise in the playground and in the school-room, and the evils of cramming will

disappear. There is not much danger of over-working the brain of either a boy or girl who is physically capable of enjoying fun. It is a matter of profound thankfulness that a strong healthy boy or girl is capable of resisting both school and parental inducements to over-work.

In connection with Dr. Grant's excellent article, it would be well to read the extracts given in the present number from Dr. Richardson's very able work, "Learning and Health," and in past numbers from eminent German and English writers.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES

The meetings during the month of July of the Provincial Educational Association of Nova Scotia, and of the Educational Institute of the Province of New Brunswick, the former at Truro, the latter at Fredericton, seem to have been occasions of great interest. These bodies are established on substantially the same principles, both having organic connection with the Central Council of Instruction or Board of Education. The New Brunswick Institute has existed for several years as the apex of a system of County Institutes, and under the skilful management of Mr. Rand, has done much, towards both the development and the consolidation of the educational interests of that Province. Revised arrangements for the inspection and classification of schools, recently brought into force throughout the Province, excited some discussion at the meeting just held. In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the contributions of the Provincial Treasury, for the support of public education, are paid directly to the teachers according to class, and not, as in Ontario, to the municipalities or counties for distribution. One effect of the new regulations, as we understand them, is to make the teachers' grants in part dependent on the award of the Inspector, who classifies the schools of his district on the basis of a prescribed "Course of Instruction," and in accordance with conditions established and defined by the Board of Education. The chief point taken against this system appears to have been, that under its practical working, teachers, altogether independently of their industry and skill, may possibly gain or lose in both pocket and reputation by adventitious circumstances. We have not that knowledge of the schools of New Brunswick which would justify us in pronouncing an opinion as to the value of this criticism. We are free to say, however, that the fact of the recently introduced system receiving the energetic advocacy of so practical and experienced an educationist as Dr. Rand, gives us an *a priori* impression in its favor.

The Association convened at Truro, takes the place, we believe, of a voluntary organization, constituted on somewhat elastic principles. Dr. Allison was able to draw together, not