

the McGill board of Governors, so as to carry their wishes into effect. Inspector Hubbard then proposed that the Convention should approve of the shortening of the course of the Normal School in order to enable the teachers in the school to be brought into nearer contact with the province. This was seconded by Inspector McGregor, and carried.

Mr. Secretary Rexford was called upon to read Miss MATHIESON'S paper upon "*Some of the Requirements of our Rural Schools.*" This practical paper began by contrasting the state of rural and city schools. City schools have made progress, but little is observable in rural schools. Their school houses are poor and dilapidated. Their salaries are miserably low and paid irregularly; they have sometimes to be collected or taken out in kind. We must follow the example set by Ontario and employ only trained teachers. If these two points were attended to, there would be a possibility of further reform, for example, of introducing variety into the work of young pupils. Various means of doing this were suggested. The work of older pupils was then discussed, practical agriculture being suggested as a natural course of study.

After the Secretary had given out several announcements, and commented on the liberality of the commissioners of the district of Hull in paying the expenses of teachers visiting the Convention; MR. DONALD was called to read his suggestive paper on the subject of *Botany for Elementary Schools, and a Method for teaching it*. The reader called attention to the necessity of teaching scholars to acquire information and to observe for themselves. The chief faculties required for this are observation and discrimination, and these are best cultivated by the study of natural objects. Of the different branches of this study, botany is the best for general purposes. As a book on the subject the reader recommended the well-known work on "*The Growth of Plants,*" by Dr. Gray, of Harvard. The reader then gave details in full of the work of teaching and the mode to be employed.

Miss BOTHWELL, of Durham, then proceeded to give an excellent *Object Lesson on a Plant*, first reading an introductory paper on the advantages of object lessons. The first part of the lesson is occupied by the teacher with instruction, the latter by the scholars in reproducing what they have learned. The reader wished that a microscope were more common in country schools.