

course of study, by the age of eighteen or twenty, he usually passes the *apitureaten examen*, or "leaving examination." This is held under the direction of the Provincial School Adviser, by the teachers of each school respectively.

## CHOICE MISCELLANY.

## THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE.

By T. HAGAN, INGERSOLL.

It stands, yes, stands in my memory yet,  
With its cottage roof and corners set,  
And door just placed midway between  
The gable sides which fac'd the green.

The old playground so unconfined  
Save on the east the board fence lined,  
Upon whose summit we sat so free,  
The dear old pupils of Sixty-three.

Not then did cares our light heart sway,  
But we frisked as blithe as the lambs of May,  
And felt not cold, nor heat, nor rain,  
Much less the pangs of a winter's pain.

It stands, yes, stands as it did of old,  
The benches set and maps to fold,  
With a row of desks to line each side,  
All cut and defaced with the knives we plied.

And yet one portion does still remain,  
But not, alas, in all the same,  
For he who taught us with gentle rule  
Has long, long since given up the school.

And do I not fancy I see him still,  
With mild survey and honest good will?  
Yes, yes, he stands forth in my memory yet,  
As the kind hearted teacher that first I met.

—"The ancient Egyptians slept with the head supported on an iron bar bent to receive it."

—The dust of the puff-ball (lycohedron) appears under the microscope to be the seed of the plant. Each seed is a tiny ball, of an orange color, perfectly round, and in diameter not exceeding one-fiftieth part of a hair's breadth. If, then, a globe of any substance were taken having the diameter of a hair, it would be 125,000 times as large as one of these seeds.

—Dr. Thompson made the following curious calculation upon the divisibility of matter. He dissolved one grain of dry nitrate of lead in 500,000 grains of water and then passed through it dry oxygen gas. The liquid became discolored by the black sul-

phide of lead thus formed. A drop of this solution we may suppose to weigh one grain. This may be easily spread to cover one square inch of surface. Under a microscope we can easily distinguish one-millionth of a square inch. The water could therefore be divided into 500,000,000,000 parts, each part containing some lead combined with sulphur. In this quantity there must be at least one atom of lead and one of sulphur, whose combined weight is only one-five hundred trillionth of a grain, while the bulk of lead rendered visible by the above process is only 1-888,492,000,000,000th part of a cubic inch.

—DIRECTIONS TO A CLASS IN LETTER-WRITING.—1. Write your letter upon your slate or on some scrap paper.

2. After having written it, look it over carefully, and correct such errors and make such additions or erasures as you can.

3. Copy this neatly with ink upon a sheet *note* or *letter* paper.

4. Never send a letter to any one written upon foolscap or scrap paper, or written with a lead pencil.

5. Never write your letter upon gaudy paper or with red ink.

6. Always begin the letter upon the first page of the sheet.

7. Always send the whole sheet; even though you write upon the first page.

8. If your letter fills up two pages, write upon the first and third pages. If it should run over the third page, fill next the second, (writing lengthwise, rather than crosswise,) and finally the fourth.

9. It is the best to write four pages consecutively, if you expect to write so much.

10. If preparing a letter for publication, write on only one side of *half* sheets, and number the pages. Place the date and Post-office address at the bottom and to the left of the signature.

11. Fold the note paper twice, laterally, into three equal folds. If the sheet be too wide to go into the envelope folded thus,