

ture, articulation, expression, analytical reading, gesture, &c. The staff of teachers is a full one numbering sixteen in all, and the chief members of it are specialists who devote their whole time to one or other of these departments. The classes occupy from three to four hours a day of honest, solid work. In this way an amount of instruction is given and an amount of class drill overtaken which must be impossible otherwise.

Altogether apart, then, from the character of the teachers, it is obvious that the system is one calculated to secure the best results. Such division of labour and concentration of talents has justified itself in all other departments of instruction, artistic, as well as literary, and it may naturally be expected to do so here.

And the staff of teachers is well-fitted to make the most of the system. Mr. Shoemaker, the founder of the school, has passed away, but his successors are worthy of him. They are all thoroughly in earnest, enthusiastic even in their work, and capable of arousing enthusiasm in their pupils. They are masters of their own departments, and at once inspire confidence in their judgment. Prof. Moon is probably without any superior in the world as a teacher of expressive reading. The school does not exist specially for ministers or theological students, but it is, at least, a pleasure to such to find that all the teachers are in the fullest sympathy with the aims of the Christian pulpit, and that every effort is made to maintain the highest moral tone in the institution. During the period of the writer's attendance a devotional service under the auspices of the School was held weekly, conducted by one or other of the ministers in the classes. This was not for purposes of criticism, but purely as a religious exercise.

It is, perhaps, too soon yet to speak in a confident way of the success attending the efforts of the School to improve the standard of elocutionary art, whether in the pulpit or elsewhere. The writer, in any case, is not in a position to express an authoritative opinion. It is significant, however, that out of a considerable number whom he has met, he has never heard any pupil express anything but the fullest satisfaction with the course, while in some instances the improvement has been most marked. It might be thought, perhaps, that the class of pupils has been an especially hopeful one. But this is not altogether the case. It is true they are a self-selected class. The School has naturally drawn to it those who were anxious to improve. But these are not always the hopeful ones. They are often those who have become sadly conscious of their defects by failure—whose defects are therefore of the worst kind, and who find it hardest to overcome them. Almost in despair many such have sought their aid, and always with advantage. In some cases of throat affections even, induced by an improper use of the voice, the success of their method of voice culture has been most striking, restoring to the pulpit those who had feared that their usefulness was permanently injured. It is not to be

expected that all will profit alike. Much will depend upon the natural aptitude of the individual, as in any other of the fine arts. But it is hardly conceivable that any one should fail to receive some benefit from such thorough and persistent drill as the course involves. At any rate, he who estimates aright the lofty mission of the Christian ministry will hardly deem any sacrifice too great, or any training too burdensome which promises, by fair means, to render its message more acceptable, and its work more effective. And one cannot but wish well to an institution which is making an honest and well-directed attempt to increase the power of the pulpit by teaching its occupants to use, in the most natural and effective way, those gifts of expression wherewith God has endowed them.

Since the above was in type the writer has learned that the authorities of the School propose to hold their summer session this year, also, in Canada. The place has not yet been definitely determined on, but it is most likely to be Grimsby, Ont. This pretty little town is situated on the Great Western Division of the Grand Trunk Railway, a few miles from the city of Hamilton. It overlooks Lake Ontario, and, of late years, has become a favorite summer resort. It has a large park under the control of the Methodist Church, in which great popular gatherings of a religious and philanthropic character are held each season. It is easy of access and the cost of living moderate. A student could hardly spend six weeks of the summer more pleasantly and profitably than by taking the course.

THE SPELLING REFORM.

THE question of a spelling reform is in no way limited to a little band of enthusiastic educationists, but involves the interests of every person in the English-speaking world, and of all foreigners who address themselves to the almost hopeless task of mastering our language. But for our prejudice, but for our veneration of the past, no one would ever undertake to defend the present method of spelling; it is too capricious, too entangled, too lawless, too barbarous, to admit of defence. This is a strong statement to make, perhaps, but it is one that we are prepared to support by evidence which can be confirmed by the testimony and painful experience of millions of teachers and pupils in all parts of the world.

The simple fact is that there is not a letter nor syllable which cannot be twisted and distorted in half a dozen ways. Space is too limited to allow of any attempt at giving details; but when we remember that some two thousand words are variously spelled by good writers, and that at least ten thousand others are spelled on no plan whatever, is it any wonder that poor foreigners experience excruciating torments in trying to master our language? A sarcastic Frenchman, upon being told that 'ague' is