

as, for example, when the equator was described as a line running through the *centre* of the earth. In only a few cases, however, was this inexactness observed.

DICTATION.

The results in dictation are very satisfactory, the general average of errors being very low, and the punctuation good. Exceptions occur here and there, but as the candidates who failed in dictation failed in other subjects also, there can be no sign that in any school the subject is overlooked or negligently taught. Some remark must be made, however, as to the reading of the extract prescribed, for it was obvious to the examiner that in several cases mistakes by the candidates were the result of indistinct or slipshod reading on the part of the local examiner. In justice to the candidates, too much care cannot be exercised in the choice of readers for the examination in dictation.

ZOOLOGY.

Only one candidate came forward for examination in this subject, and obtained 68 per cent. of the marks. No general report can therefore be made.

BOTANY.

As regards the number of papers presented, and their general excellence, the Girls' High School, Montreal, may be held as properly occupying the first place. With reference to the causes that operated to reduce the percentages taken, it may be noted that in the two papers from Sherbrooke there was evidence that the candidates did not fully understand the questions chosen, nor did they answer the required number. Failures occurred elsewhere from neglecting to answer a sufficient number of questions. The papers of the Girls' High schools of Montreal and St. John, N.B., and [in a less degree] those from the school of Misses Symmers and Smith, and from the Boys' High School, Montreal, give evidence of care, exactness and correct instruction. All of the papers show a deficiency, more or less marked, in descriptive analysis. In view of the importance of this branch of botanical study, efforts should be made as to drill the pupils that