

in the universities afford opportunities to prepare for the higher positions. In Scotland, the seven training colleges and the chairs of pedagogy at St. Andrews and Edinburgh prepare teachers for all grades of the schools; and here, as in Prussia, the state gives such protection and encouragement to its teachers as to lead all who enter the profession to remain there. In England, the efforts of the forty-four training colleges are spent mainly in supplying the elementary school with teachers, although work of a higher grade has been encouraged; and now Oxford and Cambridge are making provisions to prepare teachers for the higher positions. The normal school work in Austria and Hungary is much like that in Prussia, being made very definite because of the definiteness of the different phases of the school system as a whole.

In comparison with these countries, it can be seen that the normal school with us has as yet a rather uncertain field of work, so far as the preparation of teachers for any particular grade of school instruction is concerned.

Compulsory Education.

The State of New York has just put a new compulsory education law on its statute book. It provides for the punishment by heavy fines or by imprisonment of parents who do not send their children to school as it directs, and creates a new officer with a liberal salary, whose duty it is to see that its provisions are carried out. The ostensible object of this law, and one that it is well calculated to realize, is the securing to every healthy child between the ages of eight and sixteen years, a good serviceable education in the branches of knowledge usually taught in the common schools. Another laudable object that is kept well on the surface is that of bringing the children of the pauper, ignorant and vicious parents from under the sole influence of the associates and the association they are brought up among.

Children between twelve and fourteen may be employed if they show a certificate of having attended school eighty consecutive days in the current school year. Children between fourteen and sixteen must go to school the full eight months if they are not employed. A truant school is established for the education of incorrigible absentees from the district school.

A law requiring parents and guardians to send children to school a certain proportion of every year during a period of their childhood can have no effects other than beneficial ones. We have a compulsory education law in this province, and reports are sub-

mitted by teachers every year, showing how many of their pupils and how many of the children in their section between the ages of seven and twelve years do not attend school the required number of days. But no further notice is taken of the law, and virtually it is a dead letter.

There is no need for children in this province to grow up in illiteracy unless their earnings are actually necessary for their own and their family's maintenance. Nearly every child is having an education paid for, whether the benefits of an education are being paid for or not. A compulsory education law ought to be compulsory in effect as well as in intent. Where it would operate harshly, as in the case of newsboys and children who are helpful at home, partial-day attendance could be substituted for full-day attendance.—*Toronto Mail*.

Curious Facts.

Canada has one million miles of unexplored territory.

The normal temperature of a human body is 98½ degrees.

England has won eighty-two per cent. of the wars she has engaged in.

Over eight thousand varieties of postal cards have been issued in the world within thirty-five years.

In the British Museum, according to the catalogues just issued, there are 2,700 complete Bibles in all languages.

The metals which have been proved to exist in the sun are iron, sodium, nickel, copper, zinc, and marium.

Artificial wood for furniture, roofs, insulators, etc., is now made by burning magnesite, together with wood, shavings, sawdust, cotton, hair, or wool.

A ton of steel made up into hair springs when in watches, is worth more than twelve and one-half times the value of the same weight in pure gold.

The longest continued cataleptic sleep known to science was reported from Germany in 1892, the patient having remained absolutely unconscious for four and a half months.

Some very ancient books are to be found in the sacred relics at Ceylon. They are formed of palm leaves, written upon with a metal pen, and are bound merely by a silken string.

More than forty-one per cent of the English people could not write their names when Victoria ascended the throne. The proportion in that condition has now been reduced to seven per cent.