

the annual meeting to look after their own interests. The secretary of the board is, by law, secretary of the meeting, but this is very often overlooked by the meeting, and an election is held. This is only allowable when the secretary is not present or there is no secretary. The trustees too often neglect to make a written report concerning the educational condition of the district, and fail to place before the meeting an estimate of what will be needed for the ensuing year. When this is left to the meeting there is pretty sure to be an under-estimate made, which cramps the service and renders it inefficient. There are a few districts which always have one year's supplies ahead. In these districts the teachers never have to wait for their pay, and everything being done on a cash basis ensures economy and satisfaction all around. It is a pity that all districts would not adopt this plan.

Auditors are very often neglectful of their duties. Instead of availing themselves of the two weeks allowed by law in which to examine the accounts of the trustees, a cursory glance at them for a few minutes on the morning of the meeting suffices, and the result is not satisfactory. The auditor should not only decide upon the accuracy of the accounts, but also of the legality of the expenditures, and if the meeting fails to decide upon the matter in dispute, it is to be referred to the inspector, whose decision shall be final. It sometimes occurs that the accounts are not audited at all. In this case the meeting usually appoints an auditing committee, and passes upon their report. Each year's accounts should be kept separately, as far as possible, and after once having been passed by the meeting it is doubtful if any after-action can be taken upon them. The inspector is often requested to take action on expenditures which have been made four or five years back, and which have been passed by the meeting. This he can not well do. Each district should have an account book, which is its property, and in it should be kept all the accounts. This is very often neglected, and it renders auditing the accounts very difficult in consequence. After the first annual meeting at the second and third a trustee goes out by lot, then one goes out each year in regular order. A trustee cannot resign at the annual meeting and another one be elected to fill his place. He can only resign with the consent of his co-trustees and the inspector. This point should be carefully attended to, as its neglect would render the proceedings of the board illegal. The newly-elected trustee should take the declaration of office before the chairman, and if the chairman be elected trustee, he must make it before the secretary. In the case of an appointment of a trustee by the inspector, some person shall be named by him to

receive the declaration. The refusal of a trustee to take the declaration of office within ten days of the meeting vacates his office. Where a trustee declines to act another may be appointed by the inspector, upon requisition of seven ratepayers of the district. Where a trustee obtains consent to resign the trustees may call a meeting to elect another. C.

[To be continued.]

It is true that too many—in fact, the majority of our schools—are insufficiently supplied with apparatus. Much can be done by an energetic teacher towards having such deficiencies supplied. Cases have come to my knowledge in which trustees have rendered a cheerful compliance with the requests of teachers for additional apparatus after having proved obdurate to the alleged pleadings of several of their predecessors. The urgency which comes from a desire kindled by a want *really* felt stands a good chance of gaining its object. Trustees wish to be assured that an article will prove useful and not a merely ornamental addition to the school room before investing in it. Again, some teachers, by preparing school entertainments and charging a small admission fee, have realized sums sufficient to add very materially to school apparatus. Comparatively little has been done as yet in the line of "home-made" apparatus. The making of neat cabinets for the preservation of specimens in connection with lessons in nature; the preparation of models of solids, and many other articles useful in the school room, is surely within the ability of some of the larger boys in many country schools. Let the teacher be in earnest and no term need pass without some valuable addition to school apparatus.

R. MACLELLAN.

QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

Questions and Answers.

S. L. T. W., HAMPTON.—I send you by mail a specimen of animal life found about 18 or 20 inches below the surface of the ground. What is it? Please state in the REVIEW.

One month and two days after the date of your card (Nov. 2nd), the earth in your parcel was poured out for examination. The only conspicuous remains of animal life were two pretty well dessicated specimens of *gordius*. This hair-worm is generally found in water, being parasitic in its earlier stages in the larger aquatic insects. The habitat of your specimens, unless the ground was marshy or occasionally covered with water, might indicate a different species from *gordius lacustris*, Fabr. (the common hair worm)—viz., a hair worm parasitic in some earth-burrowing insect or worm. *Gordius* belongs to the family *Gordiacea*; to the order, *Coclemintha*; to the class, *Anulata*; to the province, *Articulata*.