

have a rate bill as high as permitted by law, others have a diminished rate-bill. Some schools are well supplied with maps and apparatus, and others have none. Thus there is found a wide diversity in detail under the same general system.

In a religious point of view, the common school system has been so constructed as to recognise Christianity, but at the same time to respect the conscientious opinions of individuals. It is evidently impossible to have the catechism or formularies of one Church taught, without an unfair influence over the children belonging to others. Hence it is necessary to exclude all these; though in some exceptional instances, where there is a very general agreement in religious opinion among the inhabitants, a religious catechism is taught. The schools are not, however, as many are ready to say, on this account, godless institutions. There is an express recommendation from the Council of Public Instruction, that the schools should be opened and closed by reading of the Scriptures and prayer; and a form of prayer for this purpose has been prepared, while the use of it is not made obligatory, and ex-tempore prayer by the teacher is permitted. The Scripture may also be used by the pupils as a class-book, at the discretion of the Trustees. Christianity is declared to be the basis of our whole system of education, and the clause of the Act which bears on this point reads thus:—"No child shall be required to read or study " in or from any religious book, or to join in any exercise of devotion or religion, " which shall be objected to by his or her parents or guardians; provided " always that within this limitation pupils shall be allowed to receive such religious " instruction as their parents or guardians shall desire, according to the general " regulations which shall be provided according to law." Thus, none are compelled to receive instruction in religion against the will of parents or guardians, while the Bible may be read and religious instruction may be given in such cases as parents or guardians may desire. In connection with this feature it is interesting to observe by the late returns, that out of 3565 teachers employed, there were,—

Presbyterians,.....	998
Church of England,.....	716
Methodist,.....	957
Roman Catholic,.....	396
Baptist,.....	183
Congregationalist,	57

The number of schools opened and closed with prayer was 1003, and in 1963 the Old and New Testaments were read.

Another element in the religious aspect of the schools is that all Ministers of the Gospel are *ex-officio* visitors, and in many instances they are local superintendents. A fine opportunity is thus afforded of exerting a religious influence on the schools. Every teacher, moreover, must obtain from some Minister of religion a certificate of good moral character. In these ways, then, provision is made to some extent for the religious character of our schools.

A commendable attention has also been given by the Council of Instruction to the general literature which the people may be expected to read. A number of works on the arts, sciences, history, and general literature, have been selected by competent persons to furnish Township Libraries. That selection, while giving much useful and interesting information, contains nothing injurious to religion or morality, and though it does not embrace works properly of a religious character, is still admirably calculated to enlarge the minds of the community, impart a relish for useful knowledge, improve and elevate the taste. In connection with this, the Journal of Education deserves notice. It is a monthly periodical containing original articles and copious selections from other educa-