

pure carelessness on the part of the candidates; (2) that penmanship has improved; (3) that a surprising number of students omit altogether the use of the apostrophe in the possessive; (4) that there are frequent errors in the tenses of verbs; and (5) that topics assigned for composition should be more limited in range. A majority believe that spelling has improved. About one-half are of opinion that candidates do not look upon English as a serious matter, the other half taking strong ground to the contrary. Several complain of slang and colloquialisms as being too prevalent in the papers, but the majority deny this.

Spelling (Grade X.). The candidates make but a poor showing in attempting to exhibit the meaning of words by the use of illustrative sentences.

Composition (Grade XI.). All the examiners are of opinion that sentence structure is defective; that the apostrophe in the possessive is neglected, that such forms as "very pleased," "very satisfied," "very changed," are too common; that the careless use of the personal pronouns, giving rise to ambiguity, is common, and that pun-

tuation is defective. Nearly all believe that spelling has improved. Two-thirds of the examiners agree in desiring to call the attention of teachers to (a) the right placing of qualifiers in the interest of clearness and force; (b) the use and misuse of the participial construction; (c) syllabication; (d) logical connection of paragraphs; and (e) placing of material on the written page.

Literature (Grades XI. and XII.).

All but one or two of the examiners say that literature should be a plucking subject, that real knowledge and appreciation of literature are rare, a condition possibly due to too much cramming of notes, that there is much wordy and irrelevant answering, and that the apostrophe appears to be going out of use. A majority say that there is some improvement in the composition. There is complaint of a certain poverty of expression, a lack of facility and variety. There is difference of opinion as to whether the influence of the examination at present injures or retards the proper study of literature. There is difference of opinion also as to improvement in spelling and penmanship.

THE PURCHASE OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Contributed by R. M. S. SOURIS

During the past year the Souris School Board has purchased all supplies used in the schoolroom, including notebooks, pencils, pens, foolscap, etc., and it has paid for these by a monthly fee levied upon the pupils. This fee has ranged from 5 cents in Grade I. to 20 cents in the Collegiate classes. The exact amount of the fee has been determined by the teacher of the room, who estimated the amount required to cover the cost of supplies used in her room.

This system has resulted in a saving in money to the parents. The School Board buys in large quantities, and in this way secures large discounts from the regular retail prices. The following are some of the prices which they are

paying for goods for the coming year:

64-page exercise book, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x7 $\frac{3}{4}$ in., ruled, on super calendered white wove paper, covers printed to order—\$35.84 per 1000.

96-page book as above, with strip on back—\$53.70 per 1000.

Scribblers, unruled (5c retail)—\$25.00 per 1000.

Loose-leaf covers, black cloth (Gage's No. 1854), 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ x8 in.—\$4.50 per doz.

Fillers for the above, ruled and margined—95c per 1000 pages.

Fillers, unruled—75c per 1000 pages.

Faber's or Academy pencils—\$3.50 per gross.

Emperor pencils (Clark Bros.)—\$5.35 per gross.