

adapted to the needs of the children.—*Rev. J. J. Sullivan, Visitor to French Schools, Yarmouth and Digby.*

Much education of the best kind may be given to schools through well laid out and kept grounds.—*C. W. Roscoe, Kings and Hants.*

Teachers are not persistent enough in pressing upon the trustees for the proper and necessary equipment of their schools.—*M. J. T. Macneil, Cape Breton and Richmond.*

It is painfully apparent that nature-study in many schools is yet barely touched, or entirely neglected. Some teachers give ten, five and even four minutes per week to nature lessons, while, in the case of twelve schools the returns indicate that no attempt whatever was made to give instruction in this very important subject of school room work. It is here that the utility of the "Local Nature Observations" becomes apparent. The teacher of average ability and ambition, by a little research can readily find material enough in following these "Observations" to interest and instruct a school for many minutes a week during the whole term.—*E. L. Armstrong, Pictou and South Colchester.*

To me there seems an imperative need of a severer test being given those who aspire to be teachers. No person should be granted a license to teach who has not made a pass of fifty as a minimum on High School subjects. School rooms are being occupied by callow, inexperienced boys and girls, who are driving the stronger and better teacher out of sight. The supply is so far in excess of the demand that there has been a heavy cut in salaries.—*I. C. Craig, Cumberland and North Colchester.*

Origin of Some Names.

The term Canada, is Indian, indicative of a "collection of huts."

Manitoba traces its origin from Manitou, the Indian appellation of "The Great Spirit."

Ontario comes from the native Onontac, "the village on the mountain," and chief seat of the Onondagas.

Lake Erie is the lake of the "Wild Cat," the name given to a fierce tribe of Indians exterminated by the Iroquois.

Lake Huron owes its name to the French word hure, a head of hair, in reference to the Wyandots, whom the French settlers designated Huron, owing to their profusion of hair.

Niagara, or rather, to give it its full name, Oni-aw-garah, expresses the Indian for "the thunder of waters."

The White Sea is so called from its proximity to the sterile regions of snow and ice; the Black Sea, because it abounds with black rocks; the Red Sea, on account of the red soil which forms its bottom; the Green Sea, otherwise the Persian Gulf, owing to a peculiar strip of green always discernible along the Arabian shore, and the Yellow Sea, from the color of the water caused by the nature of its muddy soil.

Botany Bay was so called by Capt. Cook from the great variety of plants which he found growing on its shores when exploring it in 1770.

Java is a native Malay word, signifying "the land of nutmegs."

The Ladrone Islands merited this designation from the circumstance that when Magellan touched upon one of the lesser isles of the group in 1520 the natives stole some of his goods, whereupon he called the islands the Ladrones, which is the Spanish for thieves. Papua is a Portuguese term for "frizzled," in allusion to the enormous frizzled heads of hair worn by the natives.

Sumatra, a corruption of Trimatara, means "the happy land."

Formosa is Portuguese for "beautiful."

Japan is a European modification, brought about through the Portuguese Gepuen, of the native Nippon, compounded of "ni," sun, fire, and "pon," land, literally sun-land, or "land of the rising sun," signifying "the fountain of light."

Canary Island were originally so called on account of the numerous dogs, as well as of their unusual size (Latin, canis, a dog), bred here.

Grass widow, denoting a woman temporarily separated from her husband, is a corruption of "grace widow"—in other words, a widow by grace, or courtesy.

The word chaperon is French, derived from the chapeau, or cap, worn by the duennas of Spain.

A Parisian shop, or work girl, is known as a grisette, on account of the gray cloth of which her dress is made.

Colleen is the native Irish for girl, and colleen bawn for a blonde girl.

The modern class title of washer finds its origin in the Romany or gipsy word "masha," signifying to "fascinate the eye."

SOUTH AMERICAN WORDS AND THEIR MEANINGS.—Andes, copper; Amazon, boat destroyer; llanos, plains; Madeira, timber; Rio Janeiro, river of January; Santiago, St. James; sierra, a saw; Terra del Fuego, land of fire; Ecuador, equator; Bahia, the harbor; Patagonia, big-footed; Galapagos, tortoise; Chimborazo, chimney; Buenos Ayres, good air; Montevideo, mountain view; Valparaiso, vale of paradise; Venezuela, little Venice; volcano, vulcan; Brazil, coal of fire.—*How to Teach and Study Geography.*

Cramming.

Cramming tends to make study distasteful. It is thus opposed to the self-culture which naturally follows rational mental training. Cramming is a mistake, for it assumes that learning is everything, and forgets that knowledge must be classified to be helpful. Cramming is a mistake, for it assumes that all pupils are dullards. It is chiefly the effect of telling, and telling is the result of the teacher's stupidity, not of the pupil's. Cramming, like stupid teaching, produces a morbid state of mind, and a consequent disgust for knowledge in general. Cramming unrelated text-book definitions, rules and dates is a mistake, for it weakens the memory. As the memory can recall only what is held in the mind by the laws of association, it follows, logically, that the rote recitation of text-book bric-a-brac is a silly trespass on a pupil's opportunity. It is a well established mental fact that what has little or no connection with what is already in the mind cannot be retained, hence cannot be recalled. That is, the rote recitation of one day is forgotten by the next day.—*J. N. Patrick in the Western Teacher.*