

living power. I think it must be admitted by all impartial observers that normal-school training has not been favourable to the development of personal talent and power in teaching ; and I believe this fault is traceable to the system of practice teaching which is in vogue in our professional schools.

An invaluable adjunct to a normal school is a primary school, in which students in training may observe the finest results of the teaching art, in the way of organization, discipline and instruction. It is needless to say that a practice or experimental school can never be a school of this type ; for so many crude hands and heads can never produce a piece of high art. A school of observation should not be a pedagogical clinic for the exhibition

and cure of abnormal processes, but a model of what is best in the art of teaching, and one which can safely be reproduced by the students who observe its organization and working. If students have been properly instructed in the general principles of education and teaching, and have made a study of their application in a school of normal type, they are, in my judgment, serving the only apprenticeship that is necessary, and the only one that is not subject to grave dangers. Teaching is an almost wholly spiritual act or art ; and the best preparation for it is a clearly defined idea of what a good school is, a knowledge of general principles, and the untarnished enthusiasm of an amateur. —*Educational Review.*

THE BIRDS' MOVING TIME.

THIS is the season of the year when hundreds of thousands of birds migrate, by night and by day, in large battalions from the frost bound north down to the sunny south. These migrations form one of the most interesting studies of ornithologists, who tell us that the little voyagers make their long journey with the precision and discipline of an army on the march. They have their advance and rear guards, while the main body is kept compact. Of course there are stragglers who are unable to keep up with their companions, but these fall out of the ranks, and unless they perish make their way as best they can to their destination.

Of so much interest are these annual migrations that the Department of Agriculture at Washington spends large sums of money making investigations, during both of the migratory seasons, which are the spring and fall. The object is to determine every

movement of interest in the passage of the birds and to distinguish what classes are harmful to farmers.

The latter question is serious. It is now under consideration whether the United States Government would not be wise to follow the advice of two or three of the Australian Legislatures in offering a bounty for the eggs of birds that destroy grain and fruits, or a certain sum per capita for the birds themselves. A man may make a good living in some of the Australian colonies by taking his gun or a snare and devoting himself to the destruction of the English sparrow.

The Agricultural Department sends out a printed blank to every lighthouse keeper along the coast, with a request to him to describe the kinds of birds that pass by the lanterns at night or that are found dead in the morning around the base of the towers. The keepers are further requested to note the number that