

to place before pupils incorrect expressions and require these to be corrected. If their reasoning powers are not sufficiently matured they will be just as likely to retain and use the wrong form as the right one. The observing teacher will notice every day that while a pupil is able to recite a rule glibly, and apply it correctly, he betrays a total disregard for it the very next sentence he speaks or writes. This results from the want of careful and long continued practice. In order, then, that pupils may compose with accuracy and correctness, they must have a maximum of practice with a minimum of theory, patient correction of errors on some systematic plan, good models of English composition constantly placed before them for their imitation and encouragement. When it is impressed on the educational mind that our present methods of teaching English, especially composition, are defective, and that better and more natural methods are called for, better results will be obtained.

NOVA SCOTIA SUMMER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.

The following are the principal points decided upon at the annual meeting of the Directors of the Nova Scotia Summer School of Science:

The Directors shall consist of the School Inspectors of Nova Scotia, the Supervisor of the Halifax schools, the Faculty of the Provincial Normal schools, and the Faculty of Instruction elect for the year.

The Faculty of Instruction were elected as follows:
Principal A. H. MacKay, F. S. Sc. (Lond.), President and Lecturer on Zoology.

Professor A. E. Coldwell, M. A., Geology.

Professor F. H. Eaton, M. A., Chemistry.

Inspector E. J. Lay, Esq., Botany.

A. J. Pineo, A. B., Mineralogy.

Inspector A. G. Macdonald, M. A., Physics.

Dr. John Stewart, M. B., Physiology.

Professor J. B. Hall, Ph. D., Sec. and Treas.

J. D. Sprague, Assistant Secretary.

The school will meet next summer at Pictou. To encourage home work during the year, it was proposed to grant a "first year certificate" to students passing a certain standard in each subject or group of subjects.

Such examinations would be entirely optional, would take place during or at the close of the lectures, and would be conducted in three sections in each subject. 1st Section, on book work—the theoretical; 2nd Section, on manipulation—the practical; 3rd Section, on collections—the practical. Something like the following syllabus was suggested:

ZOOLOGY (300 marks, maximum).—

1st Section—Classification down to *orders*, with common

examples, as in Dawson's hand book. Examination in writing—Paper: 100 marks.

2nd Section—Dissection of any 15 type species, as in Colton. Examination oral and practical: 100 marks.

3rd Section—Collection of any 50 mounted and classified species of Nova Scotia, including insects or microscopic slides. Examination ocular: 100 marks.

BOTANY.—

1st Section—Gray's "How Plants Grow," Part I. Examination in writing—Paper: 100 marks.

2nd Section—Dissection of any 15 type species not figured in the book, with outline drawings of characteristic parts of each; and determinations of new plants with the aid of a key: 100 marks.

3rd Section—Collection of any 100 mounted and classified plants of Nova Scotia: 100 marks.

MINERALOGY.—

1st Section—"Common Minerals and Rocks," (D. C. Heath & Co.): 100 marks.

2nd Section—Determination of 15 common species, by blowpipe or otherwise: 100 marks.

3rd Section—Collection of 50 Nova Scotia species: 100 marks.

And so on with the others. It was proposed to offer prizes for the best and simplest home-made apparatus for illustrating elementary chemistry and physics. The matter was referred to a committee.

PICTOU.

The locus of the next session of the N. S. Summer Science School, is a very appropriate selection for such an institution. The first and only great struggle for untrammelled higher education in Nova Scotia took place there. Its Academy has very fair conveniences for scientific work. The town, being accustomed to provide boarding accommodations for a large number of students, will without effort accommodate a large attendance at the Summer School during the academic vacation. Its rail and water communications give the easiest means of access to it from all parts. The carboniferous formation is well represented, with the finest coal mines in America only a few minutes distant by rail. The Boar's Back, of post-glacial age, is within a mile, and another mile will take in a freestone quarry. The Silurian fossiliferous coast of Arisaig might be touched by steamer—or the new red sandstone of Prince Edward Island. The glass works and steel works of Trenton are only across the harbor, whose clear, blue water can match Killarney with a proper sky. And under the sun-dazzling heavens there is no better spot for boating and bathing. The flora and fauna think themselves second to none other on the continent; and it is expected that the botanists and zoologists of the School may come to the same conclusion;