

XXV.—BRIEF NOTICES OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEMS OF OTHER AND NEW STATES OF AMERICA.

Since the foregoing pages were written I have received from the Hon. V. M. Rice, the able and excellent Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of New York, a "Special Report" presented by him to the Legislature the 15th of last month, "On the Present State of Education in the United States and other Countries, and on Compulsory Instruction." I will extract from this valuable report the following notices of school systems in several other States than those mentioned in the preceding pages of this Report. The school laws of these mostly new States contain some curious provisions, and concentrate extraordinary powers in single individuals. I omit statistics. These abridged notices will be found very interesting—showing that Common School education for the whole people, in the new States as in the old, is justly regarded as one of the first duties of the State, and is liberally provided for.

1.—STATE OF INDIANA.

"There is a State Board of Education, consisting of the Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer and Auditor, the Attorney-General and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who meet annually for conference, discussion and the determination of questions arising under the school law. The Superintendent is elected by the people for two years, and has the general oversight of the schools, and must spend at least one day a year in each county. There is in each township a trustee, who has the general custody and management of the school property and lands, and a limited power to levy taxes for building school-houses. He also each year enumerates the children in his township between the ages of five and twenty-one. The inhabitants of each school district elect for a year a school director, who takes care of the school-house, provides fuel, employs the teachers and reports to the trustee. Common schools must be organized as a State institution, and, as to tuition, supported wholly by State funds. No district, no township, no town, no city, no county, can levy and collect taxes from the people for the support of schools. Townships, towns and cities may levy taxes for the construction and repair of school-houses, and for the providing of furniture and fuel therefor, and for the purchase of sites, but the State alone can levy taxes for the payment of teachers. The schools in each township are to be taught an equal length of time, without regard to the diversity in the number of pupils therein, or to the wealth of the township. There is to be assessed each year the sum of ten cents on each \$100 of taxable property, and fifty cents on each poll (except upon the property and polls of negroes and mulattoes, who have none of the benefits of this Act) for the use of common schools.

"The school fund is made up of all the funds heretofore appropriated to common schools, the surplus revenue, soldier, bank, tax, and seminary funds all