

The School.

Now is the time for teachers as well as others to form new plans and resolutions and to enter with new life upon their noble work. Let the coming year show a better record of good done than any that have gone before it.

One of the best resolutions you can form is to study the SCHOOL JOURNAL and other educational papers, if you can get them, carefully every week. Do not think you have nothing to learn. If you do you may safely take the opinion as proof that you have the greater need of such helps. We venture to predict that whatever your acquirements, or proficiency, it will be your own fault if you do not find something in the JOURNAL every week that will help you to do better work.

It is not wise for a man to be "concentrated in himself," and it is not judicious for the teaching profession to limit their horizon and observe matters of local interest only. The colonies naturally look to the Mother Country for *prestige* on subjects affecting the welfare of communities, and so far as educational affairs are concerned, we may derive some benefit from the contemplation of their systems by observing which plans are successful and which are not. With this in view we reprint from *The School Guardian* an article on the future supply of teachers in England, and our readers can draw their own inferences as to the development of educational resources in that country compared with this. We believe the future supply of *teachers* in Canada is not a matter to cause anxiety, judging from the recent large attendance at the Normal and the Model schools. The only trouble in prospect, from the teacher's stand-point, is, possibly, the future supply of *schools*.

The subject of school government is one of perennial interest to the public school teacher. Our exchanges teem with articles and paragraphs upon the best modes of maintaining discipline, most of which contain some useful suggestions. Perhaps the one thing at the same time most essential and most difficult is to carry an even hand. The same law should be in force to-day as yesterday, and should be administered with the same degree of rigidity. It is a well-worn but ever true maxim that the deterrent effect of a punishment depends more upon its certainty than upon its severity. But our experience has taught us that nothing is more difficult than to maintain a fair degree of evenness in school government. To keep the course of discipline smoothly flowing,

"Ne'er roughened by those cataracts and breaks
Which humor interposed too often makes,"

is indeed a difficult achievement. And yet much, almost everything, depends upon it. Teachers, like other mortals, and perhaps from the peculiarly trying effect of their profession upon the nerves, more than other mortals are subject to moods. The offence that seemed trifling yesterday appears flagrant to-day, when the head is aching and the nerves unstrung. Yet to conquer every tendency to rule according to temper and caprice, is the condition and price of success. The teacher whose

variableness enables "boding tremblers" to learn to trace "The day's disasters in the morning face," has lost, if he ever discovered the secret of power. Both he and his pupils are to be pitied.

The Provincial Board of Health has distributed circulars to the members of Municipal Councils, of Local Boards of Health, and of the Medical Profession, asking their opinion upon several points connected with the election of Local Boards, such as whether they should be appointed by the Municipal Councils, or elected by the people, whether persons should be at the same time members of the Municipal Council, and of the Local Board of Health, and whether all members of such Boards should be elected annually, or for a term of years, a certain number retiring annually in rotation. The questions are of importance as is everything connected with the efficiency of local Boards of Health, and the Provincial Board has done well to take many of those best qualified to form opinions into their counsels. We cannot anticipate the replies but if we were to render an opinion which has not been asked, we should pronounce decidedly in favor of direct election of Boards of Health by the local tax-payers. In this way a deeper interest would be awakened in them and their work. The members themselves would feel a deeper and more direct responsibility, and there would be less danger of appointments being made on other grounds than those of qualification for the work. The rotation plan of election and retirement seems also much better adapted to secure unity of design harmony and persistency. All school teachers should take an active interest in matters affecting the public health, and we see no reason why men of such intelligence and energy as every teacher should be, would not make excellent members of a local board.

Apropos to the Board of Health matter another way suggests itself in which every teacher can render excellent service to his generation. He can do much to educate youthful citizens in Sanitary laws. Science and experience are making it every year more certain that a vast amount of ill health and consequent poverty and suffering is self-inflicted. Ignorance or carelessness in regard to the condition of streets, lanes and above all back yards, is responsible for a great deal of misery which is attributed to mysterious dispensations of Providence. The laws of Nature and of Providence alike, if indeed this is not a distinction without a difference, hold men and women responsible for the use of their intellects, as well as of their moral faculties. Not only should every village have its intelligent and vigorous Board of Health, endowed with all the powers and means necessary to efficient action, but also every school should be a training school for the young in habits of neatness, cleanliness, and order. Children at all stages of growth are creatures of habit. Good habits soon commend themselves to taste, judgment and conscience. For instance there are, we fear, many persons to be found in Canada, of all ages, and of both sexes, who know little of the luxury of a regular and thorough bath. They have not been accustomed to it in youth and are not conscious of the need of it. But let