

structed and fitted with chemical and physical lecture rooms and laboratories, a room for mechanical drawing, and a manual training department, to be conducted in connection with the Academy. The museum will also be moved down from Memorial Hall. The changes will afford much needed space in Memorial Hall for additional lecture-rooms and a library reading-room.

Dr. Stewart, who a year ago gave notice of resignation, has completed his last year as Dean of Theology. His successor in theological work is Rev. Wm. Gladstone Watson, an honor graduate of Toronto University, who took his divinity course at Victoria University, and comes with the highest recommendations as a brilliant scholar in Semitic languages. Rev. Dr. Paisley has been promoted to the position of Dean. One master's degree in course was given. Two were granted the degree of D.D.: Rev. A. D. Morton, '64, of Bridgewater, N. S., and Rev. H. P. Cowperthwaite, '67, of St. John's, Nfld. The degree of D.C.L. was conferred on the Hon. T. B. Flint, '67, successor to Sir John Bourinot as clerk of the House of Commons, and on His Honor J. B. Snowball, Lieut.-Governor of New Brunswick. His honor was present at the convocation and gave a short address. As president of the Alumni Society he was also chairman at the supper on the evening before.

A large number of visitors attended the exercises, and in general, perhaps, no year has shown greater interest in Mt. Allison's educational work. The year has also been noteworthy in other respects. The senate board of Mt. Allison athletes won the inter-collegiate championship at the recent contest in St. John, and the Mt. Allison men were this year successful in the inter-collegiate debate with the University of N. B. A finely illustrated handbook, giving an account of the courses of study, societies, and life in general at Mt. Allison, has just been published by the Eurhetorian Society, the debating society of the University.

### TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.

#### ANNAPOLIS AND DIGBY COUNTIES.

(Condensed from Secretary's Report in *Weymouth Free Press*)

The teachers of Annapolis and Digby Counties, with many from the Western Counties of Nova Scotia, including twenty-two members of the Acadician Institute, met at Weymouth Bridge, May 7th and 8th. The meeting was the most successful in the history of the Institute in point of attendance, over one hundred and fifty teachers being present. The Institute was opened on Thursday morning, May 7th, after a very cordial reception given to the teachers on the preceding evening. Inspector L. S. Morse presided, and the proceedings were marked by great interest, promptness, and profitable discussions of the many excellent papers read. Among those present were Superintendent MacKay, Principal Soloan, Principal McGill, Inspector MacIntosh, Principal McKittrick, with Rev. J. J. Sullivan

and other clergymen, all of whom took part in the work of the Institute.

Many of the papers read were upon Nature Study and kindred topics. Our Insect Allies, by Principal A. W. L. Smith; Aids in Nature Study, by Miss Mae D. Hunt; The Teaching of Geography as an Illustration of Psychological Principles, by Principal Amirault; Physical Geography, by Principal D'Eon; the Common School as a Preparation for Life; an experiment by Miss Agnes Harlow, showing the passage of a liquid through a membrane in illustration of plant growth; a lesson on Mineralogy to pupils of Grade V., taught by Principal W. E. Banks.

Among the points brought out in the papers and discussions on the above subjects were,—that education should adapt one to meet new conditions; the study of objects is a pleasant change from the study of books, and enables a teacher to become a student with his pupils; material for nature study form a basis for color, number and language lessons; autumn is a good time to study insects, winter for minerals, and plants in spring.

Dr. MacKay was glad to see the nature study method applied to geography. One should associate the facts of geography not with the page of the book but with the country.

A paper on Composition was read by Principal Amirault, and one, Too Much Arithmetic, by Professor Connolly, both of which were practical and full of suggestions. Principal McKittrick read an interesting paper on The Good and Bad in Recitation. Among some of the excellent points made were,—the necessity for more scholarship on the part of the teacher; more careful preparation of lessons; concentration, do not give too much at a time, and learn how to ask questions; strive for accuracy and directness, every recitation should be a language lesson; nearly right is wrong; good enough is good for nothing.

Miss Winifred Moses gave an interesting lesson on the Wind, to pupils of Grade II., and at the session of Thursday evening Principal Soloan gave an admirable address on English in the Public Schools.

Principal D'Entremont's paper on School Attendance brought out a discussion on the compulsory law, which was declared to be non-effective in the country districts. Dr. MacKay advocated that every child's name and school age in the section should be placed on the register, and a tax of one or two cents should be levied on parents for each day lost. The tax could be collected or the tax payer imprisoned. He advocated a central school for incorrigibles.

In the matter of teachers' salaries some steps in advance were taken. Prin. J. Forsyth Smith advocated that an effort be made to get teachers' salaries up to the standard referred to in the Journal of Education. Rev. J. J. Sullivan stated that the French teachers had bound themselves to accept a minimum salary and asked the English teachers not