

efficient. Teachers, like poets, must be teachers born; for, unless they possess those natural gifts and talents so essential to their profession, no amount of intellectual training will ever make them successful.

COMMISSIONERS AND TRUSTEES.

These, as a rule, are men of energy and intelligence and discharge their duties well, but there are a few whose ideas of Education and Educational Institutions are not up to the times, thinking and acting on the supposition that "What was good enough for the fathers is good enough for their children." They may with propriety be styled "Obstructionists," as they generally oppose every measure proposed tending to improvement or progress. In some instances they never visit their schools systematically, and consequently know nothing definitely of what is being done, or what is required within the school-room.

It seems to me that it would be productive of much good were the Commissioners and Trustees to adopt, for the use of their schools, an attainable programme of studies for each of the semi-annual visits, present the teacher of each school with a copy of it, at the beginning of the session, for her guidance, and recognize the successful examinations by increasing the salaries of the teachers concerned; and *vice versa* when unsatisfactory, unless sufficient reasons were given why the pupils were not well up to the prescribed standard.

SECRETARY-TREASURERS.

The authorized system of keeping accounts is adopted by nearly all the Secretaries, and their books are well kept. With few exceptions, the teachers are paid up for each half-year before the Semi-Annual Reports are forwarded to the Educational Department. There is still considerable trouble in some municipalities in collecting the school-rates and monthly fees on time. The financial affairs, except in Montreal—where, doubtless, it will soon be rectified—are in a healthy condition. They are all discharging their duties faithfully, correctly, and neatly, therefore it would be invidious to specify one more than another in the matter of book-keeping.

SCHOOL-HOUSES.

There are but few school-houses in this Inspection District worthy of the name; many of them being no better than hot-beds of disease—too small, irregularly heated, and without proper means of ventilation. But steps are being taken to improve on the old order of things. Those that have been recently built and those that are now in course of erection are of a better class and are furnished with improved desks, &c. It was a wise enactment to have all plans and specifications submitted to the Superintendent for his approval. Chatham No. I. ranks first for the quality