

rational methods of teaching. Personal experience, young teachers must get, but at the first it should be acquired under skilled supervision, so that the pupils may be protected from the mistakes of teachers, and the teachers brought to know by the shortest and most direct methods.

Mrs. Charles Archibald, President of the National Council of Women for Nova Scotia, read a paper on "Manual Training for Girls." Women need training in the manual arts as well as men. The training should be given by specialists and at a certain point it should begin to differ from that given to boys. No girl is properly educated unless she is familiar with the fundamental principles of domestic science. Two hours a week of school time is needed for this work. Its feasibility should be at once demonstrated by the Council of Public Instruction, by the establishment of special classes in Halifax.

The evening session of Thursday was taken up by a public meeting at which Lieut. Governor Daly presided. Prize essays on the "Public School as a preparation for Citizenship," were read by Mr. J. A. McKeen and Principal Miller. The Lieut. Governor was very happy in his remarks. He would have patriotism strongly inculcated in the public schools. There should be such opportunities given for technical training that it would not be necessary for our young men to go abroad to fit themselves for skilled labor.

General Laurie followed with a very interesting account of the educational problems that are now agitating England.

Dr. Bell, the inventor of the telephone, spoke briefly, showing how much may be learned by the ordinary teacher from a study of the methods adopted in teaching the defective classes. If some of the senses are wanting, much skill is required in order to develop mental faculty with the help of only those that remain. The work of the school is enormously increased when the parents of pupils give an intelligent co-operation. He described in this connection the origin and work of a new society called the "Parents' Association for the help of their children at school." Such a society, the first of its kind in Nova Scotia, exists at Baddeck, Cape Breton.

Rev. J. deSoyres most eloquently described the work of university extension in England and also in New Brunswick, recommending its extension to Nova Scotia.

The Hon. Attorney General, Longley, followed in a most effective speech, which we purpose publishing.

The work of Friday was opened by Principal Cameron on "Summer Schools." After a brief historic outline of the Summer School of Science for the Atlantic Provinces he advocated that it meet in different places so as to give teachers and students an opportunity to study the distribution of our fauna and flora and extend generally their knowledge of their own provinces. It was argued by others who had given the subject much thought that the only prosperous summer schools were those connected with colleges or otherwise permanently located in one place. A permanent location means the accumulation of museums, suitable buildings and apparatus, and advancement each year in the character of the work.

The association at this point adjourned a few minutes to give an opportunity for the formation of a teachers' union. Principal Kennedy reported the objects of the union to be: (1) To elevate and unify the teaching profession in Nova Scotia. (2) To bring the claims of the profession before the public and legislature of Nova Scotia as occasion may require. (3) To watch the educational outlook and trend of thought in other parts of the world.

The officers for the ensuing year are: Principal Maclellan, President; Prof. McDonald and Principal Miller, Vice-Presidents; Principal Kennedy, Secretary; Executive Committee, Miss Mackintosh, Miss Hebb, Miss McPhee, Miss Hilton and Miss Graham.

During the forenoon there was also a meeting of the members of the Normal School Alumni Association. Mr. Hepburn was elected president, and Mr. Creed, secretary. The executive committee are Inspector Roscoe, Miss Mackintosh, Dr. Hall, Prof. McDonald, Mrs. Patterson and Principal Goucher. Prizes will be offered for the best essay on a subject to be selected.

In the afternoon Dr. Stewart read a very able paper on "Physical Education," a subject neglected in all our schools in this country. In some other countries circumstances have compelled attention to it—growing defects of sight, child suicide, deteriorated physiques, etc. Not only should the pupils be placed in favorable physical conditions but they should be carefully taught the lessons of hygiene and sanitary science generally. Free development of the muscles in the playground and in the gymnasium must be encouraged and made compulsory.

Miss Holmstrom, teacher in gymnastics in Halifax, supported Dr. Stewart's plea for more physical education in a very thoughtful and scientific paper, advocating Swedish gymnastics.

Dr. MacGregor read a paper on "Natural Science in the Public Schools." The fact that in the majority of cases the lively curiosity of the normal child attending school disappears shows that the teaching is bad. The proper teaching of science affords the very best opportunity for keeping alive the child's desire to know of the causes of things and for the training of his reasoning powers. Science also cultivates the observing powers. In field work children can be made to take an interest in birds, plants, minerals, etc. The teacher must be a co-worker with his pupils if he would get the best results. Examination questions should test the pupil's own nature work, not his memory of results obtained by others.

From the above very meagre and imperfect sketch, it will be seen that this was one of the most important sessions of the association ever held. Those who attended returned to their work greatly stimulated by the excellent papers and discussions and by their personal contact with so many men and women distinguished not only as teachers but in other walks of life.

The subjects relating to enlarged school sections, the pensioning of teachers and the founding of parental schools for incorrigibles, will be more keenly studied than ever, and when adopted in our school system they will be the more firmly established on account of the intelligent opposition with which they have been met. They will all continue to re-appear until their claims upon the legislature become irresistible.