

The Review Prize Competition.

The prizes offered by the REVIEW for the two best stories on the picture in the December number have been won by Anna Creighton, Middle Musquodoboit, Halifax County (first), and Isabel Proudfoot, Hopewell, Pictou County (second). The most finished composition was sent in by Margaret R. MacPhee, of the Marble Mountain, C. B., school, but it is not a story. Over seventy boys and girls throughout the Maritime Provinces competed, and many of the stories are of a high order of merit, especially those of the Bridgewater, N. S., schools, two from which were close competitors for the second prize; the Covered Bridge, York County, N. B., school; St. Ann's school, Glace Bay, C. B.; the Church Street, King's County, N. S., school; the Florenceville, Carleton County, N. B., school; the Bedford, Halifax County, N. S., school. The prize stories will be published in the February REVIEW.

School Closings.

The many reports in the local press throughout the Maritime Provinces of school closing entertainments at the Christmas season make us wish that we could transfer these records to the REVIEW. To do so would need many more pages than this number is made up of. But it is a great satisfaction to note the good spirit that prevailed in these closing exercises of the year, the happy results of bringing parents, teachers and pupils together in such pleasant reunions, and the many tokens of good-will and esteem by which pupils remembered their teachers. It is worth all the trouble involved in the getting up of these entertainments to have them mark such a happy close of the year's work, and it encourages teachers to triumph over the many petty obstacles of the work of the coming year.

The Health of School Children.

In a recent examination of the children of New York schools, nearly seventy per cent, it is said, were found more or less physically defective. Among the many hindrances to the progress of pupils were various adenoid growths, defective sight and hearing, and bad teeth. On remedying these defects the progress made by the pupils in their studies, and their increased vigour and hap-

piness, were proofs of the wisdom of such a step. In every school of the Maritime Provinces there are no doubt children whose health, comfort and progress would be largely improved by medical care and inspection. The city of Halifax is far ahead of any city east of Montreal in the attention it pays to the health of the children in the public schools. Should not our school authorities in other cities and communities wake up to the importance of medical inspection? Many a child blamed for stupidity or vicious tendencies has been found to be suffering from a disease which medical care has been able to remove, thus increasing the happiness and well-being of the individual and the state.

Evidence of educational growth and expansion in the Province of Alberta for the year 1907 is contained in the second annual report of the Department of Education. One hundred and fifty-six new school districts were organized during the year, an average of two for every week-day. In addition to this, the number of graded schools increased by 183, making a total increase of 339 new schools during the year. A fine normal school building at Calgary was completed and opened, thus giving a much-needed opportunity for the province to train its own teachers, half of whom have hitherto been supplied from outside, chiefly from Eastern Canada and Britain.

REV. A. WYLIE MAHON, of St. Andrews, N. B., has published a neat brochure on Canadian Hymns and Hymn Writers, in which he sketches with evident taste and appreciation the contributions that Canada has made to this literature. Though five out of the eight hymn writers selected, and whose photographs are reproduced, were born in the British Isles, Canada, which gave them their experience and inspiration, is entitled to claim them in its roll of honour. The three of Canadian birth are Rev. Dr. Robert Murray, editor of the *Presbyterian Witness*; the late Dr. Silas Tertius Rand, the famous Micmac missionary; and the Rev. Frederick George Scott, of Quebec. Mr. Mahon's taste and discernment are apparent on every page of this beautiful souvenir booklet. It should be read by every one interested in this subject, which appeals to so many people. The beautiful pamphlet was printed at the Globe office, and is for sale by E. G. Nelson & Co., St. John.