

as a reformatory agent. There is no doubt, however, that the most successful disciplinarian whips least. This view received very clear endorsement in a recent discussion on corporal punishment in the Cincinnati School Board, during which statistics were furnished to prove that "the newest teacher whipped most and the best teacher whipped least." Of all the forms of corporal punishment, probably the most dangerous is the too common one of boxing a child's ears for slight misconduct or neglect of duty. Mr. E. H. Buxton, an energetic member of the London School Board, has recently directed special attention to the matter. He addressed a letter on the subject to Dr. A. Gardiner Brown, one of the surgeons of the London Hospital, to which he received the following reply:

In answer to your letter on the subject of "Boxing Ears," I may say that in 1879 I saw seventeen cases of diseases of the ears at the London Hospital and elsewhere, which undoubtedly were referable to this cause. The condition set up in the ear varies with the force of the blow and the strength of the patient; from a red and tender state of the drum to active inflammatory mischief ending in more or less complete destruction of the organ. The cases were mostly males, and I am persuaded that there are many others due, though not attributed, to the same cause. Those who have the care of the young, cannot be too strongly impressed with the mode of punishment in question. I would, therefore, suggest that some regulation be adopted by the School Board for London, warning teachers not to "box" their scholars' ears, imposing as the penalty, if it be continued after the second or third admonition, either suspension for a time, or dismissal. The actual case in point is that of a boy (æ. 11), from whose ears you witnessed the operation of removing a polypus, due to injury at one of our Board Schools, inflicted by "boxing" his ears for "dulness"—a nice remedy for such a complaint.

Well may the surgeon say, "A nice remedy for such a complaint"! How any teacher who claims to be a rational being, can whip for dulness, is beyond comprehension.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

SKETCH OF EFFORTS TO EXPLORE A NORTH-EAST PASSAGE.

The history of the efforts to explore the north-eastern Arctic Seas of Europe are most interesting. They were chiefly connected with the discovery and exploration of the island commonly known as Nova Zembla, or New Land,—a counterpart of the Island of New Foundland, on the north-east coast of America.

Nova Zembla consists of a vast island cut in two—one-third lying southward and two-thirds northward between the 70th and 77th parallels of north latitude, and between the 51st and 69th meridians of east longitude. They are together nearly 400 miles in length and about 50 broad. The islands are separated by a remarkable strait or passage, with sharp windings, over 60 miles in length by about one mile in width. It is bounded on either side by high hills and steep precipitous cliffs. The former are noble fields towering in majestic solemnity from 3,000 to 4,000 feet above the sea level.

Nova Zembla was first discovered in 1553, by Sir Hugh Willoughby, whose sad fate has always caused a shudder. Having sighted Nova Zembla, he sailed further north and then south, and finally put into a Lapland bay, where he was frozen up. Although he and his officers made heroic efforts to obtain

relief, they failed to do so, and the entire company of sixty-five souls slowly perished at their posts, one by one, from cold and hunger.

The next explorer despatched from England was Steven Borrough, who, in 1556, sought to discover a north-east passage to China. He reached Nova Zembla, but failed in his immediate object.

Between 1570 and 1580, Oliver Brunel, Commander of the Dutch Arctic Expedition, proceeded along the coast to the mouth of Obi river; from thence he reached Nova Zembla. He made several expeditions, but none of any practical value. Subsequently Pet and Jackman, following Borrough, discovered some straits near the island in 1580; but owing to the severity of the winter, their expedition was a failure.

The next explorer was the famous Dutch navigator, William Parents. His discoveries in 1594 and 1596-7 were substantial ones; and the positions marked on his charts, three hundred years ago, have been found correct at this day.

The next explorer was the well-known Henry Hudson, who in 1608, with a small vessel, a crew of ten men and a boy, undertook to sail to China and Japan across the north pole! He reached Nova Zembla, but could get no further, and had to return. Subsequently Capt. Wm De Vlamingh, a Dutch whaler, sailed even far north of Nova Zembla, and must have sighted Franz-Josef Land. Cornelis Rould, another Dutchman, sailed in 1698, north of Nova Zembla, and sighted land.

In 1676, Charles II. sent Capt. Wood on an expedition, but after reaching Nova Zembla he lost a vessel and had to return to England. In 1760, Loschkin, a Russian captain, sailed around Nova Zembla, but he spent three summers in the effort.

In 1768-9, Rosmysloff, a Russian naval officer, went to Nova Zembla, in search of silver ore. He failed to find it, but made a thorough examination of the coast, and made a valuable report on the fauna, flora, and geology of the country.

In 1807, Count Rumanzoff despatched another expedition in search of silver ore. It also failed to find any; but much geographical knowledge was obtained by the explorers.

During the years 1819—1824, the Russian Government despatched expeditions to make surveys of the Nova Zembla coasts. The later ones, under Lieut. Lutke, were highly successful. These expeditions were continued down to 1838 with varying success, when they were abandoned. From that time to the present, exploring expeditions to those seas have been despatched from various countries. The record of their adventures and discoveries are deeply interesting, and many thrilling incidents of peril, heroism and bravery are also recorded of them. For practical results, however, the later ones mentioned in our last paper on this subject are the most interesting and valuable.

The following remarks on *The Duty of Teachers as Citizens*, are selected from the address of Mr. Rankilor, President of the National Union of Elementary Teachers in England, delivered at the late meeting in Brighton:

DUTY OF TEACHERS AS CITIZENS.

And now permit me to ask whether the time has not arrived