

The Educational Journal

CONSOLIDATING

"The Educational Weekly" and "The Canada School Journal."

Subscription, \$1.50 a year
in Advance.

TORONTO, JUNE 15, 1896.

Vol. X.
No. 5.

Editorial Notes.

A TRAINING-SCHOOL teacher says that no one caution has to be so often repeated to young teachers as the one against talking too much. Many teachers fall into the habit of constantly urging and nagging the pupil. If the teacher keeps repeating, "Now think," "Can you think?" he really gives the child no chance to think. Silence is often golden on the part of the teacher. The stimulating effect of an expectant silence is better than any amount of urging. The disciplinary effect of an impressive silence is often stronger than that of any amount of scolding.

"I HAVE taught my note-book through and do not know what to do next," said a teacher to a superintendent who was visiting the school. An exchange, mentioning the incident, draws a picture which, it says, is from real life, of the teacher standing before the class day after day, going through her note-book, and giving lesson after lesson, just as they had been given in the Normal School in which she was trained, imitating as well as she could the very looks and gestures of her favorite teacher. We should be sorry to believe there are many amongst our readers who can make no better use of methods given them as illustrations. Sample methods and lessons are excellent as illustrations, but when used as models for exact imitation they become shares and clogs. Every teacher worthy the vocation will have his or her own methods, and will never let them become stereotyped.

THE intense political excitement which has thrown all Canada into a ferment, and which is now nearing the culminating point, cannot, of course, be admitted into the schoolroom. The responsibilities of the teacher's position and the relations which he sustains to members of both, or, rather, of all, political parties bind him to strict neutrality in the schoolroom, though he has, of course, the same rights as every other free citizen at the polls. There is one respect, however, in which

the teacher can make his influence felt for good, without offence to any reasonable and upright patron of any party. He can and should seize the opportunity to, condemn every form of untruthfulness and corruption, no matter by whom practised, and to create in the minds of his pupils such a moral horror of dishonesty as may tend materially to raise the political tone of the next generation to a much higher moral level.

WE were asked a few weeks since, by a teacher, if we could tell him of a good summer school, in which he could pursue certain studies during the holidays. We were at that time unable to direct him to any such institution in Canada, for we had no information regarding any. We are now glad to learn that the Western University, of London, has established such a school, following closely in the line of the summer schools of Harvard and Cornell, which have proved so great a boon to many Public School teachers, whose time is fully occupied during the regular sessions of the colleges. The fact that Mr. F. H. Sykes, M.A., Ph.D., so well known to our readers as former editor of the English Department of THE JOURNAL, is a member of the staff of this University, and of its summer school, is to us a sufficient guarantee that the work of the school will be energetic and thorough. Circulars, with full information, will, no doubt, be sent free on application to the registrar of the University.

ONE of the best of our exchanges, some time since, observed that "the teaching profession suffers more from the misguided enthusiasm of narrowing minds than from all other sources." The writer was dwelling upon the necessity that the teacher should broaden his ideas and aspirations, and avoid the too common mistake of belittling himself mentally and socially by allowing all his thoughts and interests to revolve about the routine of the schoolroom. "It matters not how broad a man may be by nature, if he rivets his attention upon the minor matters of his profession he is sure to have his common sense submerged in a sea of

trifling details. There is no cumulative force in centring upon the lesser matters of the schoolroom." There is great truth and force in this view. It is not that the teacher should not be an enthusiast in his profession. Every true teacher will be that. But no one, whatever his success in his profession, should be content to be "only a school teacher," as no one should be content to be "only a farmer," or "only a mechanic," or "only a lawyer or doctor."

READERS of this paper will scarcely need to be reminded of the meeting of the National Educational Association of the United States, which takes place in Buffalo, July 3-10. The first four days, July 3-7, will be occupied by the meetings of the National Council of Education, H. S. Tarbell, Providence, R.I., President. The topics to be discussed are such as "Moral Instruction in Elementary Schools," "Higher Life of the American College," "Schoolroom Hygiene," "The High School and its Functions," etc., by such well-known educationists as Emerson E. White, Columbus, O.; John E. Bradley, Jacksonville, Ill.; William A. Mowbray, Hyde Park, Mass., etc. Wm. T. Harris, Commissioner of Education, Washington, will deal with the metaphysical question, "How the Will combines with Intellect in the Higher Orders of Knowing." The programme of the General Association, whose sessions extend from July 7th to July 10th, is very full and promising, and includes the names of many distinguished educators. No doubt the meetings of this large and influential Association will be very interesting and profitable, not only to its members, but to all teachers and others interested in the work, who may be able to attend. Full information in regard to routes, travelling and boarding expenses, etc., will, no doubt, be promptly sent on application to the secretary, Irwin Shepard, Winona, Minn., U.S.A., or to J. R. Harper, Inspector of Schools, Quebec, Canada, who has been appointed Provincial Manager for Quebec. Buffalo is making provision on a royal, or, rather, as we suppose we should say, a Republican scale, for the entertainment of the immense number of delegates and visitors who are expected on the occasion.