

may do either by collecting facts for inductions of their own, or by verifying the observations of others. Words are invaluable helps to the mind in classifying things, in recollecting them, in reasoning from them, and in communicating knowledge relating to them, but they can never supersede the necessity for original observation. They have no meaning until the ideas are lodged in the mind which they designate, and, however familiar they may be to the ears of the children who hear them, they are, without antecedent sense-impressions, a meaningless and unknown language. Children must see, and hear, and taste, and smell, and touch for themselves, before they can benefit by the observation and testimony of others. Without accurate sense-impressions our perceptions must be erroneous; and with erroneous perceptions, our conceptions, our judgments, our reasoning, and all our other mental operations must be erroneous. "The education of the senses neglected, all after-education partakes of a drowsiness, a haziness, an insufficiency, which it is impossible to cure." The concrete being unknown, or imperfectly known, the abstract is marked by the same characteristics.

Miss Edgeworth says on this point: "Rousseau has judiciously advised that the senses of children should be cultivated with the utmost care. In proportion to the distinctness of their perceptions will be the accuracy of their memory, and probably also the precision of their judgment. A child who sees imperfectly cannot reason justly about the objects of sight because he has not sufficient data. A child who does not hear distinctly cannot judge well of sound; and if we could suppose the sense of touch to be twice as accurate in one child as in another, we might conclude that the judgment of these children must differ in a similar proportion. The defects in organization are not within the power of the preceptor; but we may observe that inattention and want of exercise are frequently the causes of what are mistaken for natural defects; and, on the contrary, increased attention and cultivation sometimes produce that quickness of eye and ear, and that consequent readiness of judgment, which we are apt to attribute to natural superiority of organization or capacity."

But the formation of habits of observation is, perhaps, of more value even than the knowledge gained in childhood by the exercise of the senses. There is no occupation in life in which powers of accurate observation are not needed, to say nothing of the infinite sources of pleasure which these powers open up to us. "If we consider it," says Spencer, "we shall find that exhaustive observation is an element of all great success. It is not to artists, naturalists, and men of science only, that it is needful; it is not only that the physician depends on it for the correctness of his diagnosis, and that to the engineer it is so important that some years are prescribed in the workshop for him; but we may see that the philosopher, also, is fundamentally one who observes the relationships of things which others had overlooked, and that the poet, too, is one who sees the fine facts in nature which all recognize when pointed out, but did not before remark. Nothing requires more to be insisted on than that vivid and complete impressions are all-essential. No sound fabric of wisdom can be woven out of rotten raw material."

#### PERSONALS.

The McDonald medals, for the best pupils in Toronto Public Schools, were won this year by Miss Lucy Robins and Miss Martha Fortune.

Rev. Mr. Hare succeeds Rev. Mr. Sanderson as President of Ontario Ladies' College.

Mr. James Hughes has offered a medal to be competed for an-

nually, for the pupil of Toronto Public Schools who does the best original designing in Industrial Drawing.

Hon. A. Jam Crooks, Minister of Education for Ontario, has sailed for Europe.

Dr. Carlyle, Math. Master Toronto Normal School, is visiting his uncle, the famous Thomas Carlyle.

Rev. Dr. McCaul, late President of University College, Toronto, and Prof. Croft, Professor in Chemistry, have severed their connection with the College, retiring on two-thirds their salary.

Mr. Jas. Mills, M.A., principal of the Brantford Collegiate Institute, has accepted the position of Principal of the Agricultural College, Guelph.

Rev. Dr. Kemp, principal of the Ottawa Ladies College, has gone to England for a holiday, and will be absent about four weeks.

The following honors and prizes were awarded at the late Convocation of Victoria College:—Gold Medallist—C. A. Masten. Silver Medallist—R. A. Coleman. Ryerson Prize—J. H. Campbell. Webster Prize—J. B. Freeman. Hodgins Prize—J. W. Perry. Metaphysical Prize—J. R. Wortley. McClure Bursary—W. W. Madge, C. Sifton. Salisbury Prize—J. B. Freeman. Wallbridge Prize—J. H. Campbell. Mills Prize—P. McCance. Pughon Prize—R. N. Burns. Wilson Prize—J. Tremear. Hebrew—G. W. Hewitt. Sanford Bursary—J. W. Stewart. McDonald Bursary—H. T. Crossley.

Prof. Macoun, of Albert College, Belleville, will lead an exploring party from Winnipeg along the fifty-first parallel to the Rocky Mountains.

Three young ladies presented themselves at the examination of the College of Physicians and Surgeons for matriculation in Toronto. Misses Augusta Stowe and Elizabeth Smith passed, and the third failed.

E. M. Gegg, B.A., head teacher of Parkhill High School, has been awarded the silver medal for having the most proficient school in the county, his scholars having taken the greatest number of prizes at the Northern Fair; next to him comes Mr. Robert Sansborn, late of Ailsa Craig School; and number three Mr. Wm. Amos, of McGillivray, No. 10.

Mr. Henry Hough, M.A., of the Cobourg *World*, was elected a representative of the graduates in Art upon the Senate of the Victoria University.

Mr. Somerville, Public School Inspector for the County of Wellington, and also Inspector for the town of Whitby, has received a similar appointment from the Oshawa School Board.

#### Notes and News.

##### ONTARIO.

Peterboro' schools have now 1,102 pupils on the roll. The attendance at the Public Schools in Hamilton for May was 4,285; average, 88.6 per cent.; fees collected, \$600.95. Albert College students who stole examination papers from the printer were surprised to find a different set given to them on five subjects.

The question of military drill for the boys of the Ottawa Collegiate Institute came up recently before the notice of the Board, and Mr. Agnew, one of the staff of teachers, a military school graduate, was appointed instructor.

Peterboro' pays \$5,650 in salaries to Collegiate Institute Teachers and \$7,705 to Public School teachers.

The following resolution was passed at the last meeting of the Oxford Teachers' Association. Miss C. A. Jones, seconded by Miss C. Johnstone, moved the following resolution, which was carried unanimously: "That this Institute, feeling the necessity of a provision for the higher education of women, takes this opportunity of