

were considering every day the value of one class of studies with another, were we not largely neglecting one important branch of education, viz., that of the moral and physical nature of the child, and making no provision for the teaching of these subjects in our schools. While it might be true that a teacher might impress the truth relating to these subjects upon our children by his life and conduct, as well as by his words, we must not forget that many of them were not surrounded with such influences at home that led to a pure life, and therefore to ensure this end it was time that we put into our school lessons on these subjects, or at least to teach the effects of alcohol on the human system, so that our children might go out of school forewarned which meant fore-armed. As the late Dr. J. G. Holland said some years ago, "What we want in our schools is to do away with the force of a pernicious example and a long cherished error by making the children thoroughly intelligent on the subject of alcohol. The more thoroughly we can instruct the young concerning the dominating evil of our time the better it will be for them and the world." The teacher might claim want of authority to do this, but she hoped that excuse would soon cease to exist. In this Province we had already made some progress in this matter, the Protestant School Commissioners of Montreal having introduced into all the common schools of the city Dr. Richardson's temperance lesson book to be taught to all children over twelve years of age, and the promise that if the temperance people would prepare a more elementary book it would be introduced into the lower classes next year. No teaching of this kind, however, had been introduced into the high schools of the city, and she wondered that parents, in view of the tremendous risks, did not rise up and demand such teaching for all the children. We should also have this subject thoroughly taught in our Normal Schools, and expect every teacher who holds a certificate for teaching to have passed successfully in this subject. Then, and not until then, might we hope to have our children as thoroughly taught this subject as they were taught geography, arithmetic, or any other subject. We in Canada should not be left behind the United States in this matter, the States of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Michigan having passed by their legislature acts requiring this teaching in all their schools. The New York State Act was called "An act relating to the study of physiology and hygiene in the public schools," and read as follows:—

1. Provision shall be made by the proper local school authorities for instructing all

pupils in all schools, supported by public money or under state control, in physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effect of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics upon the human system.

2. No certificate shall be granted to any person to teach in the public schools of the State of New York after 1st January, 1885, who has not passed a satisfactory examination in physiology and hygiene with special reference to the effect of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics upon the human system.

The paper concluded by asking them not to forget that example was better than precept in this as in all matters. Let every teacher live his teaching, let a boy never have occasion to say to any of our teachers "Physician, heal thyself."

Inspector Hubbard bore testimony to the value of total abstinence.

Dr. Robins said he had never known a man who had not injured himself both mentally, physically and morally by his indulgence in the use of intoxicating spirits and tobacco. He was convinced that by total abstinence from the use of these they would all make themselves more useful in their day and generation.

Sir William Dawson had been a teetotaler from his childhood.

Hon. Senator Ferrier said he would be eighty-four years of age on the 23rd of this month, and he had been trying to remember how long he had been a total abstainer. He simply mentioned this to show that it was not wanted in old age, and it was not wanted in youth. He also referred to the fact that a system had been organized by Mr. Spicer, of the Grand Trunk, for about fifteen years, that all the drivers of locomotives and all those connected with the running of the traffic of the Grand Trunk should unite in becoming teetotalers. This was not made compulsory, but the men gradually adopted the system, which was found to work well.

Mr. Thomas White, M.P., expressed his great satisfaction at having listened to the paper. He had studied the temperance movement with some degree of interest for a great many years, and a number of years ago he gave up the habit of taking a glass of wine which he had continued for eight or nine years, and also the habit of smoking, which he had continued for twenty-three years, and he had found that he could do twice the work with half the labour.

Some remarks by Messrs. Masten and Newton concluded the discussion on this paper.

On motion the report of the nominating committee was adopted.

Dr. Kelley moved, seconded by Mr. Masten.