

THE St. John Business College had a very large attendance during the winter term. A significant feature was the number of ladies pursuing the various courses of study,—an average daily attendance of forty ladies being maintained throughout the term. The College keeps open all summer. A teachers' and students' special vacation course is an annual feature of the College, and Messrs. Kerr & Pringle offer a discount of twenty per cent from the usual rates to all teachers and students during the coming vacation season.

TEACHERS' examination for license will be held in St. John in the Centennial School hall, beginning at 9 a. m. on Tuesday, June 13.

THE N. B. Educational Institute will be held this year in Fredericton on the last three days of June. Consult the excellent programme in another column.

THE preliminary arrangements for the writing of a school history of Canada are approaching completion, and the terms of the competition will shortly be announced. The sum of \$2,000 required for preliminary expenses has been guaranteed by the several provincial governments, each contributing in proportion to the number of its schools.

THE St. John Horticultural Association has been established, the aim of which is to beautify and keep in order the squares in the city. The city council has been asked to hand over these grounds to the Association, and if success attends these efforts, and if the citizens generally encourage the promoters, they will extend their good work so as to adorn with shade trees the approaches to the city and secure grounds for a public park. The names of the following directors are a sufficient guarantee that nothing will be left undone to carry out the worthy objects that the Association has in view: Sir Leonard Tilley, President; W. W. Turnbull and Thos. McAvity, Vice-presidents; Hon. John Boyd, Hon. A. G. Blair, J. V. Ellis, Joseph Allison, George Robertson, A. H. Hanington, and James Reynolds, the Secretary-Treasurer.

NOVA SCOTIA REVISED COURSE OF STUDY.

Several letters recently appeared in the Nova Scotia papers criticising the course of study very severely, alleging that it was overcrowded with studies and tended to foster cram. A reporter called on Dr. Mackay, whose replies to many of the questions asked of him will be of interest to many readers of the REVIEW. He says:

"We are placing a premium on trained teachers and giving better opportunities for good training. Hereafter the normal

school will not be competing with the high schools and academies. In the normal school, the laws of the development and action of the human mind will be observed and studied. The methods of teaching the various subjects will be illustrated, discussed and experimentally tested. And to make the teachers more of a living and useful power in every school section, they shall study practically the natural science of the country as bearing on all its possible industries. Many teachers in a country section now can apparently see no more in their country than the stumps around them. No wonder our clever young country boys tend to crowd into a few of the learned professions, or to seek their fortunes in another land. There are yet multitudes of teachers who cram the boys with spellings, grammatical definitions, historical meaningless dates and, to the boys, senseless geographical lists. And instead of pointing out to the children on the roadside the beauty, virtues, wonders and evils in each of the plants in the field or by the roadside, of unravelling in play the history of insect life now becoming so important a factor in successful agricultural or horticultural enterprise, of fascinating the wondering pupils with the fairy tales spoken by the pebbles in a gravel ridge or the clay in a swamp, instead of making the young people feel that their commonplace country is filled with a glory of wonders, they state some scientific facts to their pupils which they are told to remember. Better for the children to be running wild than having such lessons. The proper science lessons are observation lessons, and when properly conducted are a healthy recreation for both mind and body, acting as a mental tonic for the study of language and mathematics. But the normal school teachers will after this have, in addition, manual training. This is not to enable them to become mechanics, but to train the hand to execute what the mind can design; to enable them to understand how things may be done; to have it in the air of the school room that manual work is as noble as any other kind of work. The teacher must have a practical knowledge of, not what is in books alone, but of what is in the country—the school section. Parents as well as the children should see in the teacher their local seer who understands the general principles of all common things. This notion created in the school room will turn the attention of many a little fellow to think of the many new and strange things that may be done at home. Thus our school rooms may tend more to turn the attention of our young to the infinite possibilities of what intelligent labor may do for our country. Our lawyers and other professional men will fare better, too. They will not be so crowded; and there will be wealthier clients in a country abounding in varied industrial pursuits."

He then goes on to show that English is now better taught than ever before—that the course of study is the result of the careful work of the foremost educationists of the country, assisted by suggestions from parents, and that it is especially framed to prevent "cram;" that it has been greatly simplified recently, and that the so-called *fourth* year is really a post-graduate academic course intended to extend over two years' work in the larger academies. Hereafter candidates for Grade A will be required to write only twenty papers instead of thirty as in the past.

"Our academies have been doing work as thorough, so far as their course extends, as has been done in any of our colleges. Some of them, judged by whatever test you choose to