

the administrative commission, which showed that there were 125 pensioners on the new pension fund, 76 were placed on the list on account of ill-health, 43 on account of old age and 6 as widows. One hundred and nine are Roman Catholics and 16 Protestants. There are 74 men applicants for next year. The total amount paid is \$12,706, and the revenue amounts to \$23,067, leaving a balance of \$10,361. Mr. Humphrey submitted the financial statement, which showed revenue, including balance of \$270.90 brought forward, to have been \$608.03, and expenses \$255.88, leaving a balance of \$452.15.

Mr. Curtis, of the Montreal High School, pointed out the principles of the natural method in teaching French. In the first stage, oral lessons are given in the language itself, names of objects being connected with the objects themselves, then the simplest constructions used by the teachers and repeated by the class; then a text-book is introduced in the language itself and carefully progressive. Systematic grammar is taken up later in French, finally general literature and general studies. It is based upon the principle of connecting language with thought, and those teachers who are to-day using the method in schools in the United States, report that students unanimously enjoy rather than detest the work.

After Mr. Curtis' explanations, a paper from the Rev. Canon Norman, chairman of the Montreal Board of School Commissioners, was read on the same subject, which with one read by Mrs. Holden, of Cowansville, we will try to secure for future publication.

At the same session, Prof. O. M. Brands, of Paterson, N.J., read an interesting paper on physiology. He impressed upon his hearers the importance to all individuals of a common sense knowledge of the principal laws of his being; that the young should and can be taught to have regard for many such laws; that education should combine, not only the intellectual, but also the moral and the physical, and should be symmetrical and useful; that the teacher is responsible for many matters pertaining to the hygiene of the school, and should be prepared to supervise and advise intelligently regarding them; to avoid emotional and brain strain as far as possible; to keep in order the instruments with which the brain works by proper rest in work, in recreation