

from much drill. And if in this drill "slips" are looked upon as very serious evils accuracy is developed. In some of our best graded schools teachers appear to think the essential thing for young children is to comprehend the values of all the numbers they manipulate. They are taught to add, subtract, multiply and divide these small numbers. Before mechanical accuracy and rapidity are acquired in any one operation they are initiated into a confusing complexity of four or more operations. This is a case of a half truth theory worse than the old one it displaced. A boy who waits to comprehend mentally that 7 times 9 are 63, before the figures 63 come before his mind, should not be advanced from the multiplication table class; and the boy who would say "63, put down 3 and carry 6," should be subjected to such drill at once, as will cure the habit — or else the teacher should be considered a fit subject for dismissal.

#### PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION AT HALIFAX.

Owing to the intelligent and energetic management of this exhibition by those having it in charge and the magnificent weather, it has been one of the most successful ever held in these provinces. As we are specially interested in the educational side of it, we must express the pleasure with which we have observed the classification of ordinary, educational, artistic and scientific subjects. Many of these have not drawn a worthy response, such for instance, as osteological, conchological, paleontological and even entomological collections; sets of home made apparatus for illustrating the principles of electricity and magnetism, mechanics, chemistry, photography and engraving and the like. The reason is not far to seek. Attention had not been directed to these subjects. But the exhibition commissioners have given a hint to the rising generation. That is what was intended, we presume; as a few months are nowhere in developing work of such kind. The impetus has only been given. At the next metropolitan exhibition we may see the first fruits of these few strokes of the pen.

But since the previous exhibition a very considerable development is observable in the character of the school-room exhibits. Kindergarten work from the Halifax and Dartmouth schools was a striking and new feature. Also the natural history collections in connection with all the leading schools. Mineralogical, botanical and even zoological collections were sent up from some schools. The Manual Training department of the Academy was in operation for only a week before, so that its influence will not appear until

a future occasion. But there were some ingenious electro-magnetic and physical apparatus and devices shown. The whole exhibit indicates that our public school work is becoming something more than a drill to prepare pupils for clerkships or literary professions. Hand labor has a value set upon it, which invests it with some dignity; and the practical application of science to the development of industrial occupations are coming to be considered as respectable and worthy of attention as the old-fashioned gentlemanly linguistic studies. And art in form, color and music is more or less fostered everywhere. Teachers should now begin to prepare for the next game of exhibits, distant though the date may be. This game is one which is well worth the candle.

#### TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.

##### CHARLOTTE COUNTY.

The largest and one of the most enthusiastic and profitable institutes ever held in Charlotte County met at St. Stephen on September 24th and 25th last. The enrolment was 95. Mr. L. M. Johnston of St. George presided. After enrolment the institute was addressed by Inspector Carter and Provincial Secretary Mitchell. Mr. Wallace Broad, a member of the St. Stephen School Board, welcomed the teachers to St. Stephen. In response to an invitation from the chair, Rev. John Anderson briefly addressed the institute. Mr. W. T. Kerr of Milltown then read a very thoughtful paper on "Proper incentives to study and how to apply them." The discussion which followed this paper was participated in by Messrs. Vroom, Brodie, Carter, McFarlane, Lawson, McCutcheon and others. At the close of the discussion Mayor Vroom of St. Stephen, who was present, addressed the teachers.

The afternoon session began with singing. Miss Rifa Clarke presided at the organ.

Miss Wilson and Messrs. Vroom and Robertson were appointed a committee to examine and report upon the manual work exhibited.

Dr. Inch, Chief Superintendent, having arrived, was cordially received, and briefly addressed the teachers. Mr. P. L. McFarlane, A. B., then read a very interesting paper, "To what extent should a pupil's advancement depend upon written examinations?" F. O. Sullivan opened the discussion, and was followed by Miss McGowan, Messrs. Kerr, Carter and Dr. Inch.

Miss Bessie Howard of St. Andrews read an excellent paper upon "Primary Number." The discussion was opened by Miss Alice Black and continued by Mr. H. W. Robertson, Miss Laura Morrell, and