

ately, and to form conclusions candidly and carefully. The living teacher can do more than any one else, except perhaps parents, in teaching the young to observe more carefully, reason more coolly and closely and judge more impartially.

THE KINDERGARTEN.

In her address to the Teachers-in-Training at the Normal School, at the opening of the current session, Miss Hailman, the newly appointed Principal of the Kindergarten Department said—

"The Kindergarten is no more a system of education than is the school. Who would ever think of asking whether the school is, or is not, a good "system of education?"

The remark is sensible and suggestive. It is capable of a wider application than that given to it by Miss Hailman. If the truth it contains were kept in mind by many of the gushing writers on the "new education," we might be spared a good many floods of nonsense.

Regarded as new and to some extent improved methods of inciting the child-mind to healthful effort, and directing its activities into right channels, there is much in the kindergarten methods to recommend them to every teacher of children. Thus regarded, the system, as, for want of a better word, we must call it, is but a development of modes of working which must have been used to a greater or less extent by all successful educators from time immemorial. We have no wish to detract an iota from the great merit of Froebel in formulating and defining educational principles, but the true teacher went to nature for instruction long before Froebel was born.

But while it is true on the one hand that the teacher must be a dullard indeed and wholly beneath his profession, who does not know how, upon occasion, to call in the aid of material appliances and reach the intellect through the channels of perception, it is equally true, on the other, that this is the beginning but not the end of systematic training. It is at best but a temporary means to certain ends, and must be gradually discarded as those ends are reached. To use the terminology of the books the percept must be gradually superseded by the concept as affording the mind its food. The higher powers of the mind cannot be said to be properly educated until they are able to form and use their own products, rather than those furnished by the perceptive faculties as the material of thought. The leaders and masters of the so-called new education are not likely to forget this; though their new converts sometimes may.

A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE.

The "Parliament of man, the Federation of the world," if it ever becomes more than a poet's "vision of the future," must needs be preceded by a universal language. According to recent speculations, or rather calculations, of M. Candolle, a Swiss scientist of high repute, the universal language is approaching more swiftly than most persons imagine. M. Candolle's figures are at least free from patriotic bias since he, while French is his native language, and at present the dominant language of both

literature and diplomacy in Europe, predicts the triumph of English. "A common language," says he, "a representative speech, not only for science and literature, as heretofore, but now also for society, diplomacy, court life, and, still more, for travel and commercial intercourse, is not only desirable, but unavoidable. It necessarily comes of itself, and English is evidently thus coming into play as superseding the French, and not only pervading Europe, but compassing the world—a sort of international, not to say uniting, language in not a few of the most important relations and interests of modern civilization." Passing beyond the general, but somewhat vague, proof to be found in Anglican colonization, British domination, and British and American commerce and travel, M. Candolle brings the question down to a strictly scientific basis by facts and figures. We have not space for the argument, but the following outline will suggest its course. Going back to make sure of accuracy to 1870, he finds the numerical prevalence of the only three tongues that can enter the contest, English, French, and German, to be, in round numbers, 77, 62, and 40½ millions respectively. Estimating carefully, according to the past increase of the populations speaking these languages, he finds that in 100 years from that date, 1970, the figures will stand as follows:—English, 860,000,000; German, 124,000,000, and French, 69,000,000. Thus, while French-speaking people shall have increased about 70 per cent., and German-speaking peoples barely doubled, English-speaking peoples will have multiplied more than eleven times. But when for every person who speaks German there are seven who speak English, and for every one who speaks French there are twelve or thirteen who speak English, the end cannot be far off. But is it absolutely safe to assume that the rates of increase in each nation in the future will correspond with those of the past? That seems the only open question.

THE FREE STATE OF THE CONGO.

The first action towards the formation of this State, which is now an accomplished fact, was taken in 1876 at the meeting of the Geographical Conference at Brussels. The "International Association" was then and there formed "to facilitate future explorations, to diminish the attendant dangers, and to utilize the commercial advantages which the rich virgin soil of the vast regions of the continent offers to European and American traders and colonists."

In the following year a Belgian expedition established a line of stations from the eastern coast opposite Zanzibar to Lake Tanganyika—a distance of 500 miles—and a permanent settlement was founded on the lake. The result is, that the journey, which it took Cameron eleven months to accomplish, is now made in one month and a half with perfect safety.

Another association, known as the Congo Committee, formed in Brussels in 1878, has established a line of stations along the river from the western coast to Stanley Falls, a distance of over 1,400 miles. "The Free State of the Congo," thus rendered accessible, has an area of 1,065,000 square miles and a population of 42,608,000. This territory was acquired by treaty with some 450 independent chiefs, who made over