

INCREASING THE CHILD'S VOCABULARY.

BY T. W. FIELDS.

The teacher who neglects to increase the child's stock of words has done that child a great wrong. He has deprived him of one of the great means of thinking and expressing his thoughts. The child who is early taught to use properly a large list of words in expressing his ideas soon begins to think much and variously. He has ideas because words are the signs of ideas. He associates these words together and has an association of ideas. In his mind he assembles them in such a way that he is able to follow out successfully a train of thought. He is developing his intellect by his thinking with these words. Every effort, every plan on the part of the teacher, which aids in increasing the child's vocabulary, is giving it mental power. The pupil should be drilled continuously in this exercise. There is no stopping-place. Perfection is never reached, yet a high state of cultivation is possible and profitable.

Giving Definitions.—The child needs to be early taught to give a definition for every new word that he finds. He should be taught to ascertain this for himself while preparing his lesson. Every well-provided school possesses an unabridged dictionary. Pupils sufficiently advanced should possess a small one for their own use. A child, if shown by the teacher how to search for words, need not be very far advanced until he can find these definitions for himself.

He should be required to give definitions by synonymous words when this can be done; but when there are none, then by synonymous phrases. It should be ascertained by the teacher that the child understands the definition. Many of our definitions will need defining to the pupil. To increase the child's knowledge of words, he should learn the other meanings which words have. His vocabulary is not sufficiently increased unless he knows all the meanings words may express. To test this fully, a most excellent exercise is to require the pupil to write sentences containing the words so as to convey their different meanings. Still another way is for the teacher to read the definitions and have the pupils tell what word is defined. They should be encouraged to use them in their conversation, in their other recitations, and in their compositions. Vigilant care on the part of teacher, constant drilling and frequent reference to the dictionary by the pupil will soon develop such a knowledge of words as will contribute in no small degree to the success of the child in all intellectual pursuits. As the child is more advanced it will study etymology, which will have its beginning in the reading class.

If the teacher is faithful in this matter, she will soon learn that the child who has a fair vocabulary can more easily get his other lessons than the one who is deficient in the knowledge of words.—*N. W. Mo. School Journal.*

Educational Notes and News.

G. J. Riddell, B.A., Mathematical Master of St. Mary's Collegiate Institute has had his salary recently raised from \$850 to \$900.

At the recent Departmental Examinations, Stratford Collegiate Institute obtained nineteen 2nd class certificates, and twenty-two 3rd class certificates.

John McBride M.A., B.Sc., has resigned the Headmastership of Richmond Hill High School. Thos. Redditt, B.A., his assistant has been appointed his successor.

Miss Lottie McNiven, who has had charge of the junior department in Kirkfield Public School, has been engaged for one of the departments of the new school, Fenelon Falls.

The Masters of St. Mary's Collegiate Institute, took their inspection holiday last Friday, and spent the day visiting Stratford Collegiate Institute.

The attendance in Stratford Collegiate Institute, is steadily increasing. There are 204 now in attendance, and almost 300 names have been enrolled during the year.

F. W. Merchant, M.A., Head Master of Ingersoll High School, has been appointed Head Master of Owen Sound High School, at a salary of \$1500. He is to take charge of Science subjects.

We congratulate Messrs. T. A. and S. G. Brown of this place (Enniakillen) on having been appointed to the headmastership of the public schools of Leskard and Green River.—*Canadian Statesman.*

The principal and staff of Stratford Collegiate Institute have been re-engaged at the following salaries: Principal, \$1,300; Mr. Mayberry, \$1,000; Mr. Wilson, \$1,000; Mr. Deguerre, \$850; Mr. Moran, \$800.

An attempt to punish an unruly boy in a Holyoke, Massachusetts, school recently brought on such a general fight that the police had to be called in to quell it, and the teacher and two pupils were marched off to the station-house.

Our popular teachers, Mr. Daniel Johnston and Miss Hillen, have both been re-engaged for the ensuing year at increased salaries. The school at the present time is in a very progressive state under their tuition.—*Walton Correspondent, Seafort's Sun.*

Miss Minnie Gillespie, of Orangeville, has been engaged as assistant teacher of Camilla school for 1886. Miss Gillespie occupied the same position two years ago, and gave good satisfaction, and will doubtless be welcomed back.—*Shelburne Free Press.*

Some anxiety was expressed lately about Mr. Hadley, the teacher of Byron school, who suddenly disappeared. He has "turned up" all right having adopted another profession that of sailor, which he prefers much better. Many of the teachers we know, aim at Law or Medicine; here is a new departure.

Educational matters in Petrolia are in quite a flourishing condition. In order to still further increase the interest in such matters the teachers of the High School there have just purchased a beautiful upright piano from Mr. Charles F. Colwell, of London, Ont., for use in the Literary Society connected with the Collegiate Institute.

Mr. John Tait, English Master of the Collingwood Collegiate Institute, has tendered his resignation, and accepted the Principalship of a College at New Yacoma, Washington Territory. Mr. Tait is a first-class teacher, and has gained a Provincial reputation as one of the best instructors in the Province.—*Shelburne Free Press.*

Since the appointment of Samuel T. Hopper, B.A., as head master, the Brighton High School is becoming gradually more prosperous. The attendance is steadily improving week by week. There are nearly fifty names on the register, with a daily average of 42 or 44. The board may well be satisfied thus far with their new teachers.

The Inspector of High Schools in his half-yearly report of the Almonte High School concludes as follows:—"This is undoubtedly one of the best High Schools in the Province. The work done in the English branches is particularly noteworthy." This school is under the headmastership of Mr. P. C. McGregor, formerly of Brockville High School.—*Brockville Recorder.*

The trustees of (Altona) have engaged as teacher Mr. James E. Forfar for another year at an increase of salary. Mr. Forfar is one of the best teachers Altona ever had. During the past three years he has successfully passed eleven pupils at the entrance examination and has a large class preparing for the coming examination. We wish him every success.—*Whitby Chronicle.*

At the last meeting of the Renfrew Board of Education, Miss Alice McDonnell was engaged as teacher for 1886 in the room at present occupied by Miss Cameron,—the latter having declined the offer of re-engagement. Miss McDonnell's salary will be \$250. The Model School staff for 1886 will therefore be:—Mr. Harlton, Miss Anderson, Miss McDonald, Miss McDonnell, and Miss Soper.—*Perth Courier.*

A strong movement in favor of the Tonic Sol-fa method of learning to sing at sight is being made in Toronto. Prof. A. T. Oringan, of the Tonic Sol-fa College, England, has been engaged to give instruction to several classes in connection with the most prominent