

ent from that of our own western states, but because she has laws and executes them. You can go nowhere, not even in the fastnesses of the Rockies or the isolation of the Selkirks, without finding the scarlet uniform of the mounted police. You will feel everywhere the presence of protecting law. You are made to realize that you are in a land of order, and that your person and property are under the care of the commonwealth. In too many of our own communities we are fast relapsing into that barbarism in which private revenge becomes the miserable substitute for public justice. In so far as we do this we are centuries behind our age." The fact that so much lawlessness and frequent lynching tragedies occur in the south and west give point and force to the remarks of the Chicago paper. It is to be hoped Canada will continue to deserve the good opinion so freely expressed by so influential a journal as the *Chicago Interior*.—*Exchange*.

E.lementary Composition.

Written composition exercises may be an adjunct of the reading lessons and of any language lessons. A preparation for the exercise may be similar to that made for reading. Subjects for composition should relate to things and topics studied in the school. Right use of capitals, and a few marks of punctuation, may be taught at this time, and in connection with written composition. Pupils may be trained to make a good oral expression of their acquired knowledge before they attempt to express it by writing. Penmanship may be taught in connection with this exercise.

The exercise of writing sentences should be introduced from the first entrance of the young pupil into primary school.

The first grade of composition will consist of a written expression or the products of observation; the second grade, of observation and imagination; the third will add a description of the products of the reflective powers. In all cases the composition prepared by the pupils should be the natural expression of natural mental products. Corrections are to be made on the use of words, on construction of sentences, on spelling and punctuation, and on the rhetorical and logical form of the composition.

The pupils are to be prepared for writing before they attempt to write. Composition writing, if rightly conducted, is one of the most productive exercises of the school.—*American Teacher*.

Stockholm has the highest death-rate from drink of any city in the world within thirty-five years, ninety in one thousand.

School and Vacations.

To the continental traveller, coming to the United States merely as an interested observer, three facts in the life and training of children fasten, as he has often declared, his attention. First, that during nine months of the year they have too much to do, and during three too little. Secondly, that during nine months they seem to be absolved from every human and cultivating duty, their whole family circle giving itself up to the hasty feeding of their bodies and to the scurry evidently deemed necessary to the acquirement of the studies which, like a black fog, loom up before them and above them from September until July, incapable of being shaken off, and yet impossible to wholly penetrate. Thirdly, that "education" seems to mean a plan which the instructor fits upon each child, rather than the educating from within of the child's own powers.

Is this an unfair estimate by the foreigner? If so, why then does he invariably receive this impression? Surely not because he looks for it, for it is diametrically opposed to everything to which he is accustomed at home. He does not even at first comprehend what his eyes and ears tell him; but when he does, he makes up his mind that he must regard Americans as material in their tastes, illogical in their educational views, and impervious to the laws of beauty. We know that this is not in every case nor in every community true. But is there, then, no foundation for the European's impression? * * * What and how much should be required of children during the nine months, and how little during the three? Let educational inspectors and theorists think out that problem, remembering that no child was ever really refreshed by total lack of daily duties or by absolute freedom at any period of existence. Every human being, save in illness, has obligations, heavy or light—but still obligations—to perform; the child should have his little ones in summer as well as in winter. It is not for laymen to say how this should be arranged; but that it could be accomplished is true, and the time is fast approaching when the boards must consider the necessity of summer duties seriously if they would not have the long vacation days become the breeding time of vice and lawlessness, which no nine months of mental discipline or moral regulations, however filled they might be with studies in both, can obliterate.—*Harper's Bazaar*.

Prof. Virchow has affirmed his belief that no trace of "the missing link" between man and the lower animals has been discovered, either in the physical structure of modern savages, or in the human skulls which are believed to be the most ancient.