

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

RURAL SCHOOL LIBRARY CARD CATALOGUE.

A card catalogue box, containing 100 cards, 100 gummed book labels and 2 "Accession" book labels (sufficient for 100 volumes), is supplied by T. C. Allen & Co., of Halifax, at twenty-five cents. The specifications are not copyrighted, so that any one is free to publish them and improve them if possible, while maintaining the dimensions and details prescribed.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

On pages 152 to 165 preceding will be found the regulations. By establishing and conducting a good library in a rural school section, a class "D" teacher will draw, between his provincial and library grants, not only the full original grant of class "D" at its maximum, but a considerable sum more. In other words, where the teacher and the community make a proper effort, the provincial grant will be greater than ever it was, while the section will have the advantage of a considerable amount of good reading.

In incorporated towns, and all sections having a department drawing superior school grants, or any grants beyond the regular ones of classes D, C, and B, teachers are required to make a return of their libraries although not receiving a library grant. This grant is a special aid, therefore, to the rural school in which there is true educational life.

It is hoped that teachers in all schools, while demonstrating to their pupils the kind of literature which should be read with present enjoyment and future advantage, will also wisely guard them from falling into the habit of reading not only injurious but useless literature. There is so much good, delightful and useful reading in the world, so cheap, that reading anything else is tragical in its folly.

SUPERIOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

As many of our Academies and other high schools have already established libraries of considerable magnitude with a good system of recording and loaning, it is not required that they should at any inconvenience change their old system.

It will be necessary, however, for them to fill in the regular library return; for which purpose estimates can be readily made with a sufficient degree of approximation to the facts. It is desired to give in the statistical tables an accurate presentation of all the library work done in connection with the public schools of the province.

RURAL LIBRARY SETS.

In the near future if it is deemed desirable, \$50 and \$100 sets of books for rural libraries may be recommended. But the variety of selection made from a large catalogue may prove more valuable; for it will enable libraries to exchange volumes after they are generally read with those of a neighboring school section.

In rural districts people have a great deal more time to think than in towns or cities as a rule. In fact, one of the disadvantages of the country is the isolation and loneliness. But this furnishes one of the best conditions for thoughtful reading. Good reading is thus the most convenient panacea for rural loneliness; and the loneliness is the best stimulus for reading which requires thought and develops mind. This element has no doubt something to do with the greater mental power as a rule developed in rural than in urban environments. A small case library of good books in a rural community is likely to be of more value to the development of the country than a whole alcove in the city. A good rural library is a rural university, and the winter evenings can be converted into a respectable university course. In a consolidated school of five or six school sections, each family