

sideration whether the work of the schools might not be carried on without a male teacher. The great majority of the scholars in the Boys' department were very young, and easily managed, and it was decided, after carefully weighing all the circumstances, that it would be advisable to increase the staff of female teachers, to mix the older children of the Infants School with the younger scholars of the Boys' department, and in this way make a preparatory Boys' School, which might be easily carried on by a lady teacher. This arrangement has been carried out, and we have every reason to be satisfied with the result. We have consequently now in our schools two departments: the Girls' School, which was established when we began our work twenty years ago, and a preparatory Boys' School for children from seven years of age to nine; the whole under the superintendence of Miss Thornber.

The Girls' School, to which Miss Thornber's care is more especially directed, is in a very satisfactory condition. Last year two of the scholars of the school succeeded in obtaining diplomas from the McGill Normal School, and their names may be added to a long list of teachers who have been successfully prepared in the same department for the teaching profession.

I have in former Reports spoken highly of the efficiency of Miss Thornber as a teacher, and the past has borne ample testimony to her fitness for the position she occupies. Miss Thornber was, at one time, a scholar in our Girls' School, was subsequently trained at the McGill Normal School, and since then has had some years of experience. Miss Hicks, whose care is mainly directed to the preparatory department for boys, is a trained teacher, and holds a Model School diploma from the McGill Normal School. She has had considerable practice in teaching, and the progress of the part of the school allotted to her care this Session has been in every respect satisfactory.

Miss McGarry and Miss Gaillard are the two assistants of the Schools; the former chiefly aiding in the Girls' department, and Miss Gaillard giving instruction in French to the whole of the scholars. I can speak in high terms of these young ladies. They have each a diploma from the Normal School, and have been regularly prepared for their duties.

The French language is now taught in all our English schools; and, indeed, there seems to be a desire on the part of the whole English-speaking population of Canada to give their children an opportunity of acquiring a language which is the mother tongue of so many in the Province of Quebec. I have had many opportunities of judging of the success of Miss Gaillard in her specialty, and I am sure she deserves all that may be said in her favor.

Although we have to some extent changed the arrangements of our school, there is one subject which in this respect we have not interfered with, and which we still consider the most important of all, and that is the religious instruction of our pupils.

Every Monday morning the school is opened with prayer by Dr. Bond, our Superintendent, the whole of the scholars being collected in one of