

tution to 105, and now, at the close of the session, out of 104 who have undergone the final examination, I am able to recommend 84 to receive Normal School diplomas. Of these diplomas, 12 are for academies, 26 for model schools, and 46 for elementary schools.

Of those who received diplomas at the close of the session 1876-'77, 75 in number, 33 returned to obtain a higher certificate, and nearly the whole of the rest are now teaching in the schools of the Province.

I should add here that it is not often now that our students content themselves with the lower diploma, and that since the opening of the school the proportion of those entering the institution who remain more than one session has been gradually increasing, showing, I am led to believe, on the part of their friends, a better estimate of the value of Normal School training than used to exist some years ago.

I have endeavored to, as much as possible, communicate with those of our former students who have charge of positions in the country, and it is satisfactory for me to be able to say from my own means of information, and, also, from the Reports of the Inspectors of Schools, that they seem to be most beneficially carrying out the objects contemplated when the Normal was set on foot.

I am desirous of calling attention especially to the fact, that during the past year, including the University students taking our diplomas, 34 young men have entered our school, a much larger number than usual, and I have every reason to believe that their professional career, in common with that of the rest of our pupils will be a source of permanent benefit to the province.

The appointment of Mr. J. Hicks to aid me during the past two Sessions in the work of lecturing has been very beneficial, and has enabled me to give my attention to other subjects, equally, if not more, important to the welfare of the School. It must be borne in mind in connection with this, that the normal school is a public institution to supply a constantly recurring want of the community, and that the Principal at any time during the day may be called upon by those who may wish to avail themselves of its advantages, either in the way of procuring teachers for schools, or of obtaining information on school matters generally, and that, as those who apply are, in most cases, from the country, the business they have in hand requires almost invariably immediate attention. Independent of this, however, I must state, that as our pupils are required to devote half of their time in teaching in the model or practising schools, I have felt that, although the supervision maintained by the teachers of these schools was of a most valuable nature, it was but right that I should by frequent visits show an interest in this very essential part of their training. The assistance afforded this session has enabled us to do this to a much greater extent than formerly. The recent enlargement of the school building has been very useful to us during the past session,

and has added much to the convenience and comfort of our students. It has afforded us an opportunity of fitting up a laboratory for the use of the lecturer on Chemistry, who, in consequence, has been enabled to carry out a course of practical chemistry, which was totally impracticable under the old arrangement of the class rooms. In the Model Schools for boys and girls, the addition of three rooms to each, has led to such modifications of the daily work as must be beneficial alike to the pupils in the two departments and to the students in training, for whose instruction in the art of teaching these schools were originally established. The Primary Department still needs some additions and alterations. A specification of these has been submitted for consideration by the committee of the schools, and, should they be carried out, they will materially increase the usefulness of this very necessary part of our institution.

In the course of the session I received a letter from a member of the commission charged with the preparation and direction of an educational exhibition in connection with the Exposition to be held at Paris during the present year, requesting me to send to the Department of Public Instruction, Quebec, some information respecting the McGill Normal School. In compliance with this request, and in conformity with the printed suggestions, as far as time would admit, I prepared a brief history of the school since its foundation, which I forwarded as desired, together with specimens of pupils' work, complete sets of text books, and other information, which I thought might be of use to carry out the object intended.

In conclusion, I have as usual, to report that our Model Schools continue to be most satisfactorily carried on, and that they are at all times filled with an intelligent class of pupils.

Mr. F. W. Hicks, M. A., has charge of the Boys' department; Miss A. Swallow, of the Girls' department, and Miss L. Derick, of the primary school.

I must observe here, that the teachers have double duty to do; on the one hand to maintain the efficiency of their respective schools, and on the other, to supervise and direct the students of the Normal School, who are daily engaged with the instruction of classes entrusted to their care. It gives me great pleasure to state that in both respects they faithfully discharge the duties devolving upon them.

To the gentlemen who aid me in the work of instructing the students of the Normal School, I have to return thanks for hearty co-operation, and also for the general interest they take in those who come under their teaching. I am well aware that the students appreciate the value of their instruction and give that attention which befits those who are themselves learning to become teachers to others.

Every Thursday during the Session, the pupils of the School have received religious instruction from the ministers who have kindly attended for that purpose, and we have reason to be thankful to those gentlemen for their voluntary, and at the same time, valuable services.

To the Committee of the Normal School, and the