

GRADED AND UNGRADED SCHOOLS.

It would seem at first sight that the pupils of thoroughly graded schools must have a great advantage over those of a miscellaneous school. In the former case the teacher may claim the attention of each pupil during the whole session. All are supposed to be benefited by the instruction given to each one. But where there are say six grades each pupil must be left to work by himself at least four hours out of the five; for there can be but little work which so many grades can have in common. It might be expected that so great difference of opportunities would show corresponding differences of results. But such is not the case. The country boy in the miscellaneous makes nearly as good progress as his cousin in the well-graded school of the city. The fact is the city boy labors under several disadvantages. First, having to pass through the hands of eight teachers in as many years, much time is lost before his various teachers become acquainted with his peculiarities. The country boy is likely to be with the same teacher for two or three years at least. Secondly, the city boy is helped at every step of his work, unless he happens to have a teacher of more than ordinary ability. But the country boy is thrown upon his own resources four-fifths of his time. He is obliged to become his own instructor. He is taught by the teacher how to utilize his books for that purpose. He forms the habit of going to books for information. He becomes self-reliant and walks alone. He forms a habit which can be indulged after he leaves school; for he can always get books. But the city boy relies on the continual help of the teacher, and ceases to study when he ceases to have that help; that is, when he leaves school. City teachers should therefore be careful to give only such assistance as will barely enable their pupils to overcome the difficulties they meet. A pupil who has not acquired the habit in school of using books has missed one of the most important parts of his education.

IN *Science* (New York), of November 13th there is a recognition of the work of Dr. McGregor, Dalhousie University, on "Kinematics and Dynamics," noticed in Vol. I., p. 179, of the REVIEW. Professor Hoskins, of Michigan University, referring to the lack of definiteness in the elementary treatment of the subjects of work and energy in standard text-books, refers to the improved treatment of these subjects in Dr. McGregor's work, which he characterizes as "a book possessing many other admirable features."

A POPULAR APPOINTMENT.

Whatever may be the merits or demerits of Nova Scotia politicians, they are certainly entitled to be accredited with a magnanimity and liberality that place such vital interests as those of education above party politics and sectionalism. Tupper and Archibald, leaders of opposing parties, united in framing the Free School Act and founding the Normal School. Hon. P. C. Hill, the head of a Liberal government at a time when party feeling was intense, selected for superintendent of education Dr. Allison, whose sympathies and connections were strongly Conservative. The present government has even bettered these excellent precedents in the appointment of A. H. MacKay, who, though broad-minded in politics, was formerly held as being more or less in the ranks of the opposition.

Among the avowed supporters of the government there were men eminently qualified to manage successfully the educational affairs of the country; but none, perhaps, who would be so generally acceptable to thoughtful educationists. By the appointment of A. H. MacKay every teacher in the province feels that his status has been improved. One of the public school teachers has been raised to the highest position in his profession—the only consideration being that he was found to have been diligent in business, strong in action and in the affections of his co-laborers. So far as we have heard, the recent appointment has received the warmest approbation of all parties.

The new Superintendent, therefore, enters upon his duties under the most favorable circumstances. There are many improvements of our educational system awaiting his careful and immediate consideration:

A revision of our course of study has been in the hands of a special committee for nearly two years.

The excellent work of our County Academies makes it possible and desirable to have the Normal School re-organized and specialized.

There has been much discussion regarding a change in our school terms.

Some of our text-books are not the best obtainable on the subjects of which they treat.

The graduates from our academies should receive diplomas which might entitle them to certain legal privileges.

Manual training and kindergarten are asking for admission into our curriculum, and are offering to become our most powerful allies in the physical,