

## Educational Meetings.

### ONTARIO EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

THE thirty-third annual convention of the Ontario Educational Association opened in this city on March 27th, continuing three days. About 800 members of the Association were in attendance, representing every part of the Province. All the officers were also present as follows: President, Alexander Steele, M.A., Orangeville; Vice-Presidents, S. F. Lazier, LL.B., Hamilton; I. J. Birchard, Ph. D., Toronto; A. McMillan, Toronto; T. Kirkland, M.A., Toronto; Arthur Brown, Morrisburg; Miss Laidlaw, London; Secretary, Robt. W. Doan, Toronto; Treasurer, W. J. Hendry, Toronto.

The first meeting was devoted chiefly to registration and organization of the various departments. In the afternoon the Association met in sections, when addresses were given before the different departments by members who had been assigned special subjects for their consideration. In the evening a public meeting of the general Association was held, the President occupying the chair and delivering the annual address, his subject being, "The Relation of Higher Education to National Development." He spoke for an hour and a half, and covered his subject most exhaustively, touching on all those elements which go to the formation of a true national character and which develop or retard the impulses which distinguish a people still in the formative condition. He dealt severely with the strong mercantile feeling which he held distinguished the people of the Dominion, and which, should it continue to progress in the way it had done in the past, would sap any patriotic spirit left in the people. He instanced many other evil results flowing from the predominance of this spirit.

At the conclusion of Mr. Steele's address, Dr. G. Stanley Hall, of Clark University, Massachusetts, delivered a short, but highly appreciative discourse on "Experimental Psychology." He dwelt at some length on the character of American college life, and deplored the loss in the students of this age of that exuberance of spirits which distinguished the students of some generations ago. In concluding an address replete with sound practical advice and wisdom, gathered from experience, he urged that there were two things which should be cultivated in students—health and a good emotional glow. He held that that emotional glow, that exuberance of spirits, was the raw material out of which all great mental and physical work is created.

For want of space we are able to give only brief summaries of the proceedings in the various departments.

#### MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL.

About fifty persons were in attendance at the first meeting of this section. The President, Prof. McKay, read his inaugural address, choosing as his subject the attacks recently made on the study of mathematics, but particularly on that of arithmetic. After a discussion, the following resolution was adopted unanimously: "That this, the Mathematical Association of the Province of Ontario, emphatically protest against the proposal now under discussion by the Senate of the University of Toronto, to limit the requirements in arithmetic for matriculation examination to those demanded for the primary examination, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded immediately to the Registrar of the University, for the consideration of the Senate."

Mr. R. A. Gray, of London, read a paper on "The Place of Geometry in Our Educational System."

At the second meeting Prof. Dupuis, of Queen's University, read an able paper on "Geometry," and Dr. McLellan gave an address on the "Psychology of Numbers."

Messrs. Robertson, of St. Catharines, and DeLury were appointed a committee to confer on the University matriculation matter and report to the College and High School Department.

At the third meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Association, the chair was taken by W. J. Robertson, the Vice-President. The report of the joint committee proposed at the morning meeting of the College and High School Departments was submitted. After some considerable discussion the following motion was carried:—"Seeing that the Joint Committee on Examinations has no control over the primary

examinations in our secondary schools, the Mathematical and Physical Association does not approve of the majority report which was adopted at the meeting of the College and High School Department, held this morning." Mr. DeLury then read a paper on some discoveries in Euclidean geometry. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Hon. President, Prof. Alf. Baker; President, A. T. DeLury, M.A.; Vice-President, R. A. Thompson, M.A., Hamilton; Sec.-Treas., Fred F. Manley, M.A., Toronto; Executive Committee, R. A. Gray, B.A., London; T. W. Standing, B.A., Tilsonburg; A. H. McDougall, M.A., Ottawa; J. Davison, M.A., Guelph; C. A. Chant, B.A., Toronto. Mr. F. F. Manley, was elected as Representative on the Board of the General Association.

On motion to reduce the amount of history for the entrance examinations, an amendment was passed that British history should be eliminated from the entrance examination, the idea being clearly understood that British history should still be taught, but not for examinations, as teaching British history for the entrance examination never developed a patriotic spirit toward Great Britain; while if the subject could be taught without the examination in view the highest spirit of patriotism would be developed.

Mr. Hughes gave a number of valuable suggestions on his subject, "Self-expression." He pleaded for the development of the individuality of the child, the self-consciousness of his individual power, not of his weakness. He should be asked to make his own problems and invent his own plans. His executive ability should be directed and cultivated, not repressed, nor should he be kept "doubting," but doing. And only his wanting to do what was wrong should be repressed. More oral work there should be; and writing thoughts, not copying words. Rapid reading to secure the thoughts, not to say the words, would assist the pupil in this direction. Mr. Garvin, of Peterboro', opened a discussion on vertical writing, upholding the system from his success with it in the Peterboro' Public Schools. A resolution was passed asking that in the opinion of this Association, vertical writing should be introduced in our Public Schools. In the afternoon Mr. Brown's paper on entrance examinations was discussed at length. A committee was appointed to lay before the Minister the resolutions adopted by this Association at this session. Mr. Palmer presented the report of the committee on the Chairman's address. Resolutions were adopted asking that much longer experience should be required from teachers before they should be allowed professional certificates; and that every child is entitled to all the training which our Public Schools can give and that the schools of the masses should receive more aid from the Government.

#### MODERN LANGUAGE.

At the meeting of the Modern Language Section, the following papers were read: "Certain Peculiarities of Blank Verse," Prof. W. J. Alexander; "The Modern Language Master's Aim," Mr. C. Guillet, B.A.; "Has Canada a Literature," Mr. T. G. Marquis, B.A.; "The Gouin Method," Miss J. H. Robson; "The High School Course in French and German—its Scope and Aim," Mr. A. W. Wright, B.A.; "Notes on Current German Literature," W. H. VanderSmisen, M.A.; "The Use of Pas with certain Verbs," J. Squair, B.A.; "Romance, Philology, and Literature in 1893," J. H. Cameron, B.A.

Mr. Marquis dwelt upon the literary aspect of his subject, and instituted comparisons between the work done here and elsewhere in the departments of history, romance and poetry. The conclusion of the paper was that Canada could not yet be said to have a literature.

Mr. Wright criticized severely the departmental regulations because of their indefiniteness. The University regulations were somewhat better, but the real guide was the examinations. These were criticized at some length, and the speaker held that it would occasionally help examiners if they were themselves examined.

The election of officers resulted as follows.—President, J. Squair; Vice-President, D. R. Keys; Secretary-Treasurer, W. H. Fraser; Councilors: W. J. Alexander, Geo. E. Shaw, Miss E. Balmer, W. J. Sykes, and A. W. Burt.

#### CLASSICAL SECTION.

At the meeting of the Classical Section Prof. Dale, who presided, spoke a few words of welcome, and then called upon Mr. F. W. Shipley,

who read an excellent paper entitled, "My First Year's Experience in Teaching Classics." The value of the paper lay in its frank and vivid statement of the difficulties that all men encounter at the start, who have anything of the true teaching instinct. The paper was discussed by many of those present. Mr. W. M. Logan's paper on "Some Words that will not be Parsed" called out a very animated discussion. In the absence of Mr. J. Colling, the President read his paper on "A Better Method of Teaching the Gerund and Gerundive." Mr. J. J. Bell then opened a discussion on the general condition of classical study in the schools. The discussion which followed brought out some curious details in the construction of school time-tables, options, etc.

#### TRAINING SECTION.

Mr. T. Kirkland, M.A., presided at the meeting of the Training Department. At the first meeting the following resolution was passed:

"That the percentage required for pass at professional examinations for County Model Schools be uniform throughout the Province, and that such percentage be fixed by the Education Department."

The report of the Committee on Professional Reading was received and adopted. Mr. Wm. Scott read an admirable paper on "Lesson Plans," and illustrated it by reference to history and arithmetic. The paper occasioned considerable discussion. Mr. Stanley Hall, of Worcester, Mass., delivered an address on "Child Study," which, the speaker said, had a triple value, (1) it should lead to accurate observation on the part of the teacher; (2) the pupil would be immeasurably benefited, inasmuch as he would be thoroughly understood by his teacher; (3) it would have a strong scientific value. The paper was discussed by the meeting, and a large number of those present took part. The opinion was unanimous that Dr. Hall had outlined the proper course for the training of children.

The Model School Section organized, with Mr. Alexander in the chair. Mr. Rannia, of Newmarket, spoke on "Model School Text Books," and the subject was referred to a committee for consideration. Mr. W. Wilkinson, of Brantford, read an excellent paper on "How May the Non-professional Standing of Model School Students be Extended?"

#### THE KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT.

This department opened on Tuesday morning with an address from the President, Miss Laidlaw, upon the increase of kindergartens during the past year, and the necessity of teachers knowing the mothers and homes of the children. She said that there were eighty-five kindergartens, 200 teachers and 8,056 pupils in the kindergartens of Ontario. Miss Mackenzie, of London, read a paper on kindergarten extension and enthusiasm as a factor in that extension. The paper was fully discussed. This was followed by a paper from Miss Savage on "Drawing," which was also discussed. At the Wednesday's session Miss MacIntyre gave an interesting talk on "The First Year's Training." A committee was appointed to consider and report on this matter. Mrs. Hughes gave an excellent and instructive talk on creative development of occupations, with assistants, illustrating the subjects with paper folding, weaving, and drawing.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Miss MacIntyre, Toronto; Director, Miss Laidlaw, London; Secretary, Miss F. Bowditch, Hamilton.

Mrs. Newcomb gave a paper on "Transition Class," which was discussed. Then followed reports of committees, question drawer, and votes of thanks to retiring officers.

#### THE INSPECTORS' SECTION.

At the meetings of this section, the following papers were read: "Grammar and Composition in our Public Schools," Dr. W. E. Tilley; "Are Grammar and Arithmetic as well Taught in our Schools now as formerly? If not, why not?" Mr. A. Brown; "The Relation of the County Board of Examiners and the Public School Inspector to the Model School," Mr. W. McIntosh; "Deformity in Children Caused by Faulty School Desks and Seats," Dr. Bremner; "The Literary and Professional Qualifications of Inspectors and Model School Masters," Inspector Garvin; "Have we a Sufficiently High Ideal of the Work to be Done in a Public School," Inspector Deacon; "How Shall we Secure Uniformity in the Extension of Third Class Certificates?" Mr. John Dearness.

The papers gave evidence of much thought