

systematic course of instruction is another essential condition of success. In other circumstances, the work is apt to be diffuse and superficial. The work sometimes fails through lack of thoroughness and drill. Adverse criticism has justly found this the weak point of the system. The subject matter of the oral lessons must subsequently be read and studied in order to make the impression definite and lasting.

Now it must be remembered that this is a new field. The method has long been before the public, but it has been employed for the most part by experts in teaching individuals and small classes of adults. The earlier text books, arising out of such experience, provided very little guidance or assistance for the teacher, which fact alone precluded the use of the method in public schools where specialists are not employed and where the *personnel* of the teaching staff is constantly changing. I may not, with propriety, discuss this topic as its importance deserves, but I will permit myself to say that in the more recent text books, of which a considerable number have appeared both in the United States and in Canada, an attempt has been made to meet the conditions that are found in large classes of children. The ideal course for such work has not, in my opinion, been laid down, but so much has been done in that direction that no teacher wishing to introduce the method in such schools as exist in this province will have any difficulty in selecting a fairly satisfactory course of study.

The results that are obtained by this method will be found to differ considerably from those which are reached where translation is the basis of the work. As I have said, stress is laid on the training of the ear and the tongue. Within well defined limits our students learn to understand, to speak, to read and to write. They do not learn the French language; that is the work of a life-time. They, however, become familiar with a good part of the essential language of current speech. In this province their knowledge is likely to increase instead of being forgotten. It is already sufficient to be a source of pleasure and of profit. In a year or two, it will be possible to state more definitely what amount of work can be accomplished during the time at our disposal. The work is proceeding in all classes with satisfactory results, but it is too soon to show our best