

education, our task is greatly simplified. Let us seek to train the powers of observation and judgment by means of natural history and the experimental sciences. Let our course of study be handled by properly-trained teachers who understand the correlation and the co-ordination of the branches of human knowledge, and objections against the system will disappear. Teachers called to their work and fitted by inborn qualities, as well as by Normal schools, will yet redeem the world.

Prof. Macdonald strongly emphasized the necessity for trained teachers if the course of study is to be successful in rural schools.

Prof. Haley explained briefly the nature of the X-rays, and for over two hours exhibited their effects to a greatly interested public.

On Friday, the second day of the convention, Miss A. M. Parker, of Granville Ferry, read an excellent paper on "Tonic Sol-Fa." She traced its history from Miss Glover in 1820, and Mr. Curwen in 1840, to the present. Its use is now almost universal in Great Britain and some of the colonies. She explained the different steps by which it is taught from the doh-chord to the time-notation. With various class exercises she made manifest the mental characters of each of the notes, the use of the modulator, and the harmonies of the principal chords. The patriotic song, "Before All Lands"—a happy selection—was used to illustrate the method of writing the notes, denoting the time, etc. It was sung with hearty good-will by the teachers, who, for the time being, posed as Miss Parker's pupils.

In addition to these papers, there were several lessons, some as model lessons, to be imitated by the teachers, and others for information on different points.

Of the first class was a lesson on the violet, by Miss C. L. Harris. A class of small children dissected, examined, named and described verbally and by excellent drawings the specimens which they themselves had collected. In the discussion which followed, Prof. Haley pointed out the saving of time effected by the good use that was made of incidental teaching. The pupils were not only learning botany, but also the correct use of English and the arts of drawing and writing. Similarly history and geography, or geography and history, should be one subject.

Prof. Macdonald, of Truro Normal school, explained his method of teaching mathematical drawing. His talk was much admired, not only for the information imparted, but as being a model of the way in which a teacher should come down to the comprehension even of his older pupils. The teachers felt that they had not only learned much of a simple and useful, though but little understood, subject, but that they had also learned how to teach it.

Principal Bradford, of St. Andrew's school, exhibited the beauties and utility of factoring in algebra, illustrating incidentally the extent to which education in the universities of England tends to a preparation for examination—the solving of pretty mathematical puzzles, senate-house riders, etc.

Principal Starratt gave a science talk—the air, its physical properties, constituents, how to demonstrate their existence and qualities, etc., etc. There were several neat, original and suggestive experiments, together with a graphic and lively presentation of the subject that would keep pupils awake even in the last days of June.

In the absence of Principal Cameron, a lesson on literature (*Lycidas*) was taken by Principal MacVicar, who was evidently at home in his subject. The teachers who were privileged to hear him would do well to adopt his method of questioning. Pupils often remain passive while the teacher goes on asking questions, which imply the answer. Not so in this case. Keen interest was aroused, and the booksellers will find that there will be a demand hereafter for annotated editions of Milton's *Minor Poems*.

Prof. Haley gave a very clear exposition of the Roentgen rays. We hope, in a future number, to be able to present our readers with a synopsis.

Altogether the convention was one of great interest and profit.

The Acadia Institutions.

The closing exercises at Wolfville were of that earnest and impressive character which distinguishes the work of these institutions. The presence of Dr. Butler, President of Colby University; of Hon. H. R. Emmerson, Premier of New Brunswick; Hon. J. W. Longley, Attorney General of Nova Scotia, and many others interested in the higher education, made the occasion one of great interest.

The baccalaureate sermon by Rev. Dr. Butler on Sunday, May 29th, was a fitting one, impressing on young men the necessity of a sincere and honest performance of the duties of life. The Hon. H. R. Emmerson's address before the Senate on Monday evening, on "Some Phases of Political Life," was an apt and straightforward presentation of the responsibilities, trials, duties and faults of political life in these provinces, and intended to point out to young men the advantages, and some of the disadvantages, of entering the arena of politics.

Tuesday was a day devoted to the College, Academy and Seminary. In the morning the College graduating class conducted its exercises. In the afternoon the Academy closing took place. Principal Oakes reviewed