

them that this constitutes a musical staff. Let the children hold up their hands and repeat the quatrain, pointing to the fingers and the openings between them as the words "lines" and "spaces" are spoken. That constitutes Lesson I, and in less than five minutes you have fixed forever in the young mind the idea of a musical staff.

Follow it up in Lesson II by naming the notes upon, above and below the staff, still using the left hand, and the right index finger as a pointer, and say:

"Under the lowest line is D;
Upon the lowest line is E;
See F in the first open space;
On line the second G we place;
In space the second A we see;
On line the third we place the B;
In space the third we C assign;
And upper D on the fourth line;
In the fourth space is upper E;
And on the fifth line F we see;
Above the fifth line upper G;
Upon two leger lines may be
The upper A and lower C."

Explain the meaning of the word "leger," and let the children, again as a lesson in form, draw the "staff," place the "notes," (letters) upon it, and draw two additional leger short lines above and below the staff, with A and C properly placed.

Lesson III may be on the forms of the notes, explaining that if made on a white ground the notes will be black; if on a black ground, they will be white. Here is a little rhyme which will fix the forms in the pupils' minds, and awaken a lively interest if rapidly made by the teacher on the black-board as the lines are recited:

"There are two round or open notes,
The semibreve and minim;
Four with round black heads—
The crotchet first we give;
The quaver next, which has one spur,
The semiquaver two,
The demisemiquaver three—
As here you clearly view.
Sometimes the quicker notes are tied;
Wherever they occur,
Remember this, that every line
Just answers to a spur."

The use of the scientific names of the note form may appear difficult, but very young children will pick them up in the rhymes, and with a little after instruction will recognize their values as readily as though called "whole" notes, "half" notes, "quarters," "eighths," "sixteenths," and "thirty-seconds."

A form exercise may be subsequently taken up and a table built up, or rather down, by placing one "whole" note at the top; below it two "half" notes,

and so on, till the equivalents of each note form are shown.

Lesson IV might relate to time values, as follows:

We hold the notes and count the beats:
For semibreves count four;
The minims hold while counting two;
The crotchets one—no more.
Two quavers to a crotchet go;
Of semiquavers four;
Of demisemiquavers eight—
The quickest note we score."

Teach the children the note sounds, using the open hand staff and index finger pointer, with the letters whose location they have learned, and gradually get them to sing to your dictation—that is following your pointer with the correct sounds—simple melodies, at first using the letters, and, when thorough, the words set to them. It will not be long before you will have not only a singing school, but quick and accurate sight readers of musical notation.

Hampton, N. B.

ALLEGRO.

TEACHERS' CONVENTIONS.

KINGS COUNTY, N. B., INSTITUTE.

The Kings County, N. B., Teachers' Institute met at Hampton on Thursday and Friday, September 25th and 26th, Vice-president Miss M. A. Stewart in the chair. Inspector R. P. Steeves was present and delivered an earnest address on the Relations of the Teacher to the School and to Society. Dr. G. U. Hay gave a lesson on ferns, and this was followed by an excursion to Frost's Mountain, Lower Norton, in the afternoon, when the natural history of that beautiful region was studied. At the public meeting in the evening, addresses were given by Chief Superintendent Dr. Inch, Prof. W. T. Raymond, Inspector Steeves, John March, and others. Centralization of schools was discussed, and there was a strong sentiment in its favor.

On Friday morning Dr. Hay read a paper on Nature Study; Miss Florence Prichard explained a time table for lower grades; Miss Beatrice E. Duke read an excellent paper on Manual Training; Mr. Willard Brewing gave a suggestive paper on Discipline, and Miss H. S. Raymond one on History. These papers were discussed in a very thorough and spirited manner.

The following officers were elected: D. P. Kirkpatrick, President; Miss Ella Seely, Vice-president; Willard Brewing, Secretary-treasurer. Additional members of Executive, Miss Ada Small, Miss Ida Northrup, Orton W. Gray and Rex R. Cormier.

ALBERT COUNTY INSTITUTE.

The twenty-fifth annual session of the Albert County Institute met at Hopewell Hill on Thursday and Friday, September 25th and 26th, President T. E. Colpitts in the chair. About fifty teachers enrolled. Papers were read by W. C. Anderson, of