

work. Try to make your composition so perfect that it will need no corrections.

16. *Abbreviations for Criticism*.—"", begin a paragraph; [], indent; —, ○, connect;

∇, separate; ∆, supply omission; ✕, take out, or change; ———, capital required; ? , doubtful; !, absurd; |, correct the error.
— *New York School Journal*.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

ESSEX.—Mr. Dorsett, writes us that a few errors have crept in our report, in November issue. He says:—" (1) I urged that a chief superintendency such as existed during 1875, was preferable to the present system. (2) Teachers did *not* vote *unanimously* in favour of the present system; about one-third of those voting, supporting my motion, and the remainder voting for the present system. Many teachers refrained from voting."

EAST MIDDLESEX.—In the County Council Chamber, London, on Friday, October 19th, the East Middlesex Teachers' Association began their thirteenth regular meeting. President Dearnness in the chair, Mr. Alex. McQueen, secretary. The formalities over, the Association adopted the report of the Committee on Monthly Reports and that of W. D. Eckert the treasurer, who showed that he had \$44.20 on hand.

It was resolved on motion of Mr. McQueen, seconded by Mr. Eckert, that a deputation be appointed to wait upon the County Council to urge the necessity and importance of establishing a High School in East Middlesex, and to take such further steps as may be advisable. The Management Committee were selected as the deputation.

President Dearnness, in presenting diplomas to the following students in connection with the last High School entrance examination, spoke highly of the neatness and general improvement apparent in the work of the candidates, and thanked the teachers for the pains they had manifestly taken in preparing their pupils:

THE DIPLOMA WINNERS.

Jane Parkinson, Un. S. S. No. 1, London township; Dora Errington, S. S. No. 14, Westminster; John Gurd, London West; Napoleon McIlhargey, S. S. No. 22, Bidulph; John Sale, S. S. No. 2, Delaware; Charles Dunn, London South; Bella McMartin, S. S. No. 6, Nissouri West; Selina Kerr, London East; Hugh McKay, S. S. No. 4, Dorchester; Edward Hall, Lucan.

Moved by Mr. Eckert, seconded by Mr. Honner, and carried, That in future in case of Union School sections, the awarding of the diplomas be governed by the same rules as are applied to inspection and reporting.

Adjourned till 1-30 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the opening of the afternoon session a motion was passed authorizing the purchase of a number of copies of the minutes of the Ontario Teachers' Association for distribution among the East Middlesex teachers. Inspector J. S. Carson, of West Middlesex, followed with an address on the subject, "How to Assign Lessons," the principles of which he laid down tersely and well. He supplied his hearers with many valuable suggestions upon this important topic. He indicated the valuable educational results obtainable from thorough preparation on the part of the teacher, and by assigning lessons on all subjects in a suggestive, interesting and intellectual manner. He would have children made thinkers by thorough and practical instruction. In the discussion which followed, attention was drawn to the superficial character of the teaching in some of our public schools, and to the evils of cramming as resulting largely from the manner in which examination papers are prepared, requiring pupils to go over far too extensive a course of study in too short a time, or else fail at the High School entrance or other examinations. A cordial vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Carson for his lucid and interesting paper.

The question of School Readers was then discussed at length, and the respective representatives of the Royal Canadian, Royal, and Gage series were heard, Mr. Boyle for the first, Mr. Donnelly for the second, and Mr. Kennedy for the third. Speeches were made by members of the Association, and a resolution was unanimously adopted in favour of the Royal Canadian series as being the best, and memorializing the Minister of Education to take steps for their speedy authorization.

COL. F. W. PARKER'S OPINION.

The opinion of Col. F. W. Parker, of Quincy fame, principal of the Chicago Normal School, was read. He wrote that he had carefully examined the books of the three series, and had no hesitation in pronouncing the Royal Canadian the best.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

The time was chiefly occupied with an interesting and instructive paper on True and