

motion from one grade to another in the common schools should be made with defective spelling ability within the range of the lessons read. Strict accuracy in figures and letters, from the primary upwards, will save the pupils as well as the teachers who may have the good fortune of educating them, untold labors and mortifications. Our academic and high school teachers should bring to public notice schools which commonly send up candidates defective in these fundamental requisites. Exposure will set in train a movement which will correct the evil and prevent that slipshod attention to accuracy in elementary work which has ruined the scholarly prospects of thousands of promising pupils.

POPULATION AND PRODUCE.

According to the latest data the areas and populations of the great divisions of the earth's surface are as follows:

	Square Miles.	Population.
Europe.....	3,756,880	357,378,000
Asia.....	17,530,686	825,954,000
Africa.....	11,277,364	163,953,000
America.....	14,801,402	121,713,000
Australia.....	2,991,442	3,230,000
Oceanic Islands.....	733,120	7,420,000
Polar regions.....	1,730,810	80,400
	52,821,684	1,479,729,400

This is the estimate given in the "Almanach de Gotha," published by Dr. Wagner, professor of geography in the University of Göttingen, and Dr. Supan. These are "census" figures for only a little more than one-half the population, 56 + per cent. Forty-four per cent. of this population is therefore made up from the best available estimates of the past, corrected by the latest and most accurate information. Ten years ago only 44 per cent. of the population of the earth were from census figures, the remaining 56 per cent. being estimates. This shows an extension of the "census" enumeration during the past ten years from 44 to 56 per cent. of the inhabitants of the world. This latest enumeration cuts down the former estimate of China from 405 millions to 350 millions; and of Africa from 220 millions to 164 millions. Europe has an average density of population twice that of Asia, seven times that of Africa and twelve times that of America. Of European countries, Belgium leads with 530 persons to the square mile, England 480, Holland 365. Mr. Ravenstein, in a paper before the British Association last fall, estimated that at the moderate rate of increase of 8 per cent. per decade, in 182 years hence the food supply of the world will not be sufficient for the inhabitants. Farming will therefore certainly begin to pay sometime before the year 2000.

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

Have a good, workable time-table and work by it. Remember your pupils depend upon it as well as yourself. The excellence of a school depends in no small degree upon system.

Study the work to come before the classes the next day. Break away from the text-books in class work. A teacher with her face in a text-book during recitation is hampered in her work and loses the confidence of her pupils.

Cultivate facility of expression on the part of your pupils. A child without the acquired power of expression is poorly equipped for recitation. Oral composition is one of the most important exercises in the school.

Finding fault with the text-books is the refuge of the lazy teacher. An industrious teacher is the best text-book for a school.

Do not continually grumble at your predecessors' work. Spend the time in trying to remedy the defects.

Remember that the old memoriter system is dead and that memory exercises to impress ordinary school subjects are worse than useless. Memory should be cultivated, but not in learning history and geography lessons.

Be friendly with parents, but not familiar. Do not always call to find fault and do not call too often on any account.

Magnify your office, not by continually talking shop, but by asserting yourself in the community. Combine for diversion outside of school work. Both by education and profession the teacher is entitled to occupy the highest rank in society.

RETIREMENT OF DR. ALLISON.

On the 27th of October, at 4 p. m., representatives of the inspectors, normal school, academic and high schools of Nova Scotia met the late Superintendent of Education in the Executive Council Chamber of the Province building and presented him with the following address and a fine and costly set of ornamental mantel bronzes, containing a clock, as a memento of their official relations for the thirteen years of his superintendency:

To David Allison, LL.D., Superintendent of Education, Nova Scotia:

SIR,—It was with feelings of deep regret that we, the public school inspectors, normal school, academic and high school teachers of Nova Scotia, learned of your resignation of the position held by you during the last thirteen years as chief executive officer of our educational system.