

LECTURES ON PSYCHOLOGY FOR TEACHERS.

The teachers of Halifax City, in accordance with their excellent custom of former years, are arranging for a series of lectures on subjects relating to their professional work. They have taken the lead in what may be called University Extension. They have had for several years past courses of lectures on Chemistry from Prof. Kennedy, Botany from Principal Creighton and Dr. Lawson, Zoology from Superintendent A. H. MacKay, Tonic Sol-fa from Rev. Mr. Anderson and Miss Ryan, Physics from Dr. MacGregor of Dalhousie University, Geology from the late Dr. Honeyman, Drawing and Modelling from Miss O. Smith, of Truro, and Principal Harvey of the Victoria School of Art and Design, Modern Languages from Professors Bober and Balval, and Elocution from Miss McGarry of the Halifax Ladies' College.

They have now arranged for a series of twelve lectures on Psychology from Prof. Seth of Dalhousie University. These lectures will begin on Friday the 8th of January at 4 p. m. For the convenience of teachers they will be delivered in the Halifax County Academy. They will deal with the scope and method of Psychology; the formal nature of Consciousness; the nature and growth of Attention; the Apperceptive Process; Perception; Thought; Imagination; the Feelings; the Will. After each lecture an opportunity will be given for questioning and discussion. A small fee of \$2.50 will be charged, to be devoted to the purchase of works on philosophy. Sully's Teachers' Handbook of Psychology is recommended in connection with the course. A written examination will be held at the close, and certificates granted according to the proficiency shown.

As the Professor is the ablest Psychologist we have in the country, and as his lectures will have special reference to the teaching profession, we will endeavor to furnish our readers with a good outline of them in the REVIEW.

In connection with the psychology, and based upon it, Mrs. Harriman, Director of the Halifax Kindergarten, will give a series of lectures on Fröbel's system and its relation to the common schools, particularly to primary work. These lectures are particularly meant for primary teachers. They will illustrate the occupations, songs, games, busy work, etc., of the "children's garden," as well as note many modern improvements of the system.

A GREAT DEAL of interesting matter intended for the December REVIEW is crowded out. Will our valued contributors be as brief as possible.

A CONSCIENTIOUS TEACHER'S NOTICE.

In the Grand Falls' correspondence of the *Sun* of November 25th there appears a letter from Mr. Richard Wheeler, teacher of the Superior School there, giving notice to the trustees of his intention to terminate their agreement. His reasons, which are tersely given and which will enlist the sympathy of all interested in progressive education, are, in substance, as follows:

- 1st. There is no co-operation on the part of the trustees.
- 2nd. There is no interest displayed on the part of the parents. During a term's service there was not a visit to the school made by a trustee or citizen, save a short business visit by the secretary.
- 3rd. That the indifference of parents and school officers has a natural effect upon the attendance and punctuality of pupils. Sometimes the attendance of the morning is double that of the afternoon, and many of the latter pupils bring excuses to leave at recess. Eight hundred and ninety-four of these excuses was the legacy of his predecessor.
- 4th. That the school is utterly destitute of apparatus, with the exception of a small map of the Dominion of Canada.
- 5th. That the outlook for an ambitious teacher is very dismal, taking into consideration, in addition to the reasons given, the fact that in seventeen years but one pupil has been fitted by the school for the Normal School, and her education was not wholly acquired in the district.

This is rather a strong arraignment against a community like Grand Falls, and shows that the benefits of our school law have not yet become apparent to its people. Mr. Wheeler suggests that a little judicious pressure be exercised by the inspector, and we think the suggestion a good one, as without such lever many districts quite as pretentious as Grand Falls would be in a similar state. For these, courses of instruction and apparatus are prescribed in vain unless backed up by mild compulsion, such, for instance, as withholding the county fund.

Any neglect or lack of interest on the part of trustees begets an indifference on the part of parents, which soon infects the pupils. No teacher can have any heart for his work when brought face to face with such neglect and indifference as, judging from Mr. Wheeler's letter, seems to exist at Grand Falls.

Keep all your black board surface in use. Many good teachers have not enough. Black board is the right arm of the school, yet how common it is to see it used day after day, week after week, month after month, and, in some cases one could almost say, year after year, to preserve some elegant piece of work. No work should encumber the board longer than a week at a time, except it is being added to and used each day. Such as a map growing into completeness.