

to those connected with the University that the able and indefatigable President, Dr. Wilson, has in addition to the arduous duties of his office to do the work usually performed by two professors. He should be relieved of a portion of his work, and either History or Literature assigned to an additional professor.

GLEANINGS FROM THE COUNTY CONVENTIONS.

READING is a very important subject. More time is spent in teaching it in proportion to the progress made than in teaching any other subject. We have frequently urged the necessity for improved methods of teaching this subject in elementary classes. We are delighted to notice how frequently the conventions discuss this question, but it is a cause for regret that the subject of reading in the advanced classes is not more often considered. When the able and observant Chief Superintendent of Manitoba reached Ontario recently to study its system of teaching and of training teachers, one of the first questions he asked, was "How is it that reading is not taught in the schools of Ontario." Enquiry from him brought out the fact, that many of the teachers who had gone from Ontario to Manitoba, had informed the Examining Board there, in explanation of the fact that they were such poor readers, that they did not receive a single lesson in reading while at the High School. From enquires we have made we are ashamed to confess that they told the truth. The teachers say "they have not time!" Then time should be taken from other less important subjects. The Examiners who conduct the professional examinations in Ontario agree with Rev. Mr. Pinkham that the great majority of those who leave our Normal Schools cannot read well. We hope they will let it be known that they regard it as a "plucking subject."

We were much struck by some remarks made at the last convention for the County of Durham by Mr. Oliver, Headmaster of Bowmanville High School, concerning this subject. He held that the critical study of the thirteen lessons in the Fourth Book by candidates for admission to High Schools had a very bad effect on the reading; and in proof of his statement, he called attention to the fact that very many children read much better while in the Second or Third Reader, than they do after they have read for some time in the Fourth.

We believe that there is much truth in Mr. Oliver's remarks, and unfortunately the pupils receive no compensation in literary training at all adequate to the evil effects on their reading. Not one of the thirteen selections is taken from the writings of a standard English author.

In connection with the preceding paragraph, we take pleasure in recording our hearty endorsement of the efforts made by Miss Catharine Lewis at so many of the teachers' conventions to improve the style of reading and the method of teaching it, both to primary and advanced classes. She is a most accomplished reader, and a very thorough and practical teacher. She has been most cordially received by the convention, which she has attended, both as a public reader, and a teacher of elocution.

Miss Lewis has recently been appointed teacher of elocution in the Toronto City Model School. We wish that more atten-

tion could be given to teaching how to read in all County Model Schools.

It is very gratifying to notice that the three "neglected subjects," Drawing, Music, Drill and Calisthenics, are receiving so much attention at the conventions in all parts of the province. They have already been dealt with very largely in the Practical Department of the JOURNAL, and we intend to continue to supply our readers with articles concerning them from practical teachers.

Speaking of the value of drill as a disciplinary agency in schools, Mr. J. R. Miller, the efficient Inspector of Schools in Huron County, recently said, "he believed he had the most uniformly well-behaved schools in his county to be found in any county in the province, and that both he and his teachers agreed that the revolution which had been wrought in the conduct of the pupils throughout the county was mainly due to the practice of drill in the schools." Mr. Miller himself instructs the teachers in training at the County Model School how to teach this important subject.

Complaint was made before the Library Committee of the Brant Co. Teachers' Association at the late convention, that the library was not made use of by the majority of the teachers. Some of the members were ignorant of its existence; many, through distance, could not avail themselves of it, but would prefer to receive the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL or some other good educational paper instead. A free library is a most valuable possession for teachers to have, but under existing arrangements it is almost useless. The theory is good but the practice is ineffectual, for several reasons—chiefly because teachers in country sections cannot, without much inconvenience, get the books they require, and when they do get them, find a difficulty in exchanging them. A large proportion of teachers never trouble the librarian, and are so apathetic about the affairs of the Association that they do not care to become paying members. In some counties every member who pays a certain fee receives a copy of the SCHOOL JOURNAL monthly, and enjoys all the privileges of membership. In these counties the fee is given cheerfully, and membership is desirable, because teachers—like other shrewd people—desire some tangible return for the money they pay, and the bonus is always satisfactory when it comes to their homes monthly in the shape of the JOURNAL.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

The excellent articles on "The Co-education of Mind and Body," by Dr. McLaughlin, M.P.P., and "Hygiene," by Inspector Fotheringham, are typical of a large number of a similar kind that have recently been presented to teachers' conventions. We gladly present them to our readers, with the earnest hope that they will be carefully read, and that the wise suggestions they contain may be very extensively put in practice. We would also direct attention to the article in the Practical Department containing directions concerning the proper positions of the bodies of the pupils while engaged at school duties or exercises. This