

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

Interesting Session and Close of the Proceedings.

The teachers' institute opened yesterday at 9:15 a. m. with the reading of the minutes of Thursday's session.

Number of teachers enrolled, 40. Roll call showed about 30 present.

The work opened with the subject, "What is Executive Ability?" by R. N. Wright.

Mr. Brower then presented the subject, "Value of School Tactics." Formal movements of pupils, its value; saves time; avoids confusion; brings about the best discipline; avoids opportunities for mischief; its effect upon the child respecting the teacher; leads to system on the part of the teacher; gives culture to all.

A. W. Prescott gave a practical talk on "Public Opinion and Esprit du Corps." He divided public opinion into two divisions—the opinion of the pupils of the teacher and the opinion of teacher toward the pupil.

Miss Nellie Nickerson presented "Working for a Mark." She gave an explanation of the "Department game" used in her room. It is based upon the principle that a pupil is more benefited by receiving a mark for merit than by working for a reward.

The discussion of school tactics was resumed, and Miss Wooden, Mr. Brower, Miss West, Mrs. Foster all insisted upon marching in the school as a means of discipline.

A recess of five minutes was then taken, after which Mr. Clark presented the committee's report on United States history.

Object of historical study not only to glean historical facts, but to read for training for ability to judge; for broad insight. History some advantage over science. History should train the pupil to throw away the unimportant things of the text and thereby save valuable time.

Special attention was called to the method of intensive study of history; also to the value of beginning history early, by the stories found in every history.

Make use of the child's love for the heroes of our country, but do not put too much coloring into these stories.

Chairman Thompson, of the school board, then made some pleasant and profitable remarks, and enforced many of the points made by the teachers in the course of the morning program. He gave the teachers some practical points in reference to the discipline of the schools, and spoke in reference to the public system of promotion of pupils. It is worth the attention of all teachers.

A vote of thanks was given to the high school choir and primary rooms for program of music rendered during the institute; also to Supt. McElroy for his presence.

The institute adjourned to meet at Rescue hall at 2 o'clock, to listen to Miss Ione Dunlap, of Portland, on kindergarten work.

Soon after 2 o'clock Rescue hall was filled to hear Miss Dunlap. After a piano solo by Miss Bertie Welch, Supt. Lyman introduced Miss Dunlap, who held, in a most entertaining and profitable way, all present.

She opened her talk with a brief sketch of the founder of kindergarten work—Froebel. Kindergarten work is practically new and may make many mistakes; the work needs a carefully trained teacher, with much ability and heart; Froebel's childhood was intimately connected with his methods of work.

The things that amused him he introduced as helps in the development of other children. As a system of education, he taught that to remedy the defects we must begin with the child in infancy; his chief principle is that the whole child must be educated; all his games tend to cultivate the physical, as well as the moral and the mental elements of child life; the natural activity of children is so great that there must be some outlet; if this is prevented, narrowness results.

Two important points in physical development—the improvement of balance of children by games of skipping, etc.; then the position of child in reference to the development of the chest and breathing capacity; hence the importance of seats adapted to the size of the children. The "gifts" of Froebel was one of the divisions of Froebel's system; the three divisions were the occupations, the games and the "gifts." The gifts relate to mutual development.

The connection of opposites; the value of contrast, lies at the foundation of his system. His first gift deals with colors; his second with forms; the third gift is building or combining and dividing; the latter gifts deal with lines, circles. The lessons drawn from these are endless, and Froebel may be said to have been the founder of the two ideas of psychology, contrast and relation of ideas and forms.

The moral development is the most important in his system. Mother-play and games compose this feature. It gives the mother something to do that brings her into sympathy with the teacher. It draws upon the imagination, which plays an important part in morality.

The law that character is simply crystallized habit is used by the kindergarten in arousing a fellow sympathy and respect for another. Everything used in the kindergarten is used with a purpose

to arouse the child's interest, than to have it made by him for some one else. Another psychological fact is that every thought arises in feeling.

Children love companionship, and the punishment of the kindergarten extends no farther than is deprive of this companionship.

So far as discipline is concerned, very little is said about it so long as the little one is a good citizen.

Froebel laid the greatest stress upon the importance of family life. The kindergarten drawing is a great aid to a child in his writing. The purpose of this training is general culture, and not preparing for any special work.

The idea of the kindergarten program may be carried to other departments of school work. Each morning or week a new subject is taken, and all instruction for that day or week is based upon this motto. It is not the purpose of this training to teach children to read, but the underlying attention and right habits of observation.

In all this work its success depends upon the individual kindergarten. The idea of impersonation is made use of, and the common information of every little one is used to lead them on to new ideas.

Miss Dunlap then showed examples of work done in her kindergarten. It was certainly worth careful attention and study. At the close of her lecture there were many questions by those in the audience, showing that there was much interest shown by those present.

Miss Dunlap is doubtless an expert in her line of work, and a very pleasant speaker.

It is to be hoped that her visit to Astoria may be productive of much good in the way of creating among the parents an interest in the great work.

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