

the Free Kindergarten work; while the Woman's club of Birmingham and that of Montgomery have each given a scholarship at the state university annex.

There is a growing disposition on the part of the clubs to devote more attention to the study of educational methods; and we would urge a greater elasticity in the programs and prescribed courses of study, so that time and opportunity may be allowed for the discussion of this subject.

We have also cause for encouragement in the attitude of the leading educators and men of thought throughout the state toward these efforts.

One of the most discouraging features in the system is the lack of qualification required of all school officials, so that we are in the absurd position of definitely fixing the duties of an office, without requiring fitness therefor on the part of the incumbent.

The trustees of a township, which, in our plan, is the unit, have the right and duty of distributing the school funds, the power to elect teachers, to grant transfers, and, in fact, complete control over the township schools. The law requires no qualification of them, except that they must be freeholders and householders of the township. It is not even required of them that they be able to read or write, and it is a fact that in some townships the school trustees cannot read or write, yet such men have almost absolute control of the township schools.

The county superintendent is elected by the people in a majority of the counties; in some he is appointed by the state superintendent. His duties, as the name implies, are to see that teachers do their duty, that right methods are employed in teaching, and to instruct teachers in proper methods; to hold institutes for the training of teachers; to take the school census, and, until the session of the last legislature, it was also his duty to examine teachers and grant certificates. No qualification is fixed for this position beyond an ability to make an official bond. Much has already been said and written about the county superintendent, and we are reliably informed that the agitation first arose in the Woman's club of Birmingham.

The state superintendent is elected by the people, and his duties are, as the name implies, to superintend the schools of the state. In his case also, no qualifications are fixed by law. Any man who can secure the votes and make the bond may hold the office; yet he has charge of the education of 700,000 children in the state.

Until recently the law fixed almost no qualification for the teachers; there was a statute requiring the examination of teachers, but there was no standard by which their capacity to teach or conduct a school could be determined, and it is said that in recent years there have been teachers in Alabama who could not read or write. It is little wonder that the law requiring examinations of teachers, left for enforcement in the hands of such officials above referred to, should become a dead letter.

The last legislature remedied this by creating a state board of examiners, and now no teacher can teach in a public school except graduates from the normal schools. This exemption is the only objection to the new law; by it a sixteen-year-old girl, who graduates from the Jacksonville normal, or any other state normal, may have granted to her a life certificate to teach, while a graduate from the state university, from Auburn, from Yale and Harvard even, must take the examination.

In this connection we present a few fac simile copies of the examination papers from applicants before the state board for certificates. These are all from white teachers, most of them from

applicants for first grade certificates, and have been selected, not on account of their rarity, but from scores of others of a like quality. These we would find most amusing, did not the fact that they were produced by the instructors of the youth of our state make them pathetic:

PHYSIOLOGY.

- Q. What are the three coverings of the brain?
- A. "The skull, the skin and the hair."
- Q. Name the bones of the lower extremities.
- A. "Hips, furma and flanges."
- Q. Name the three vital organs.
- A. "The head, the trunk and the extremities."
- Q. What juice aids digestion in the stomach?
- A. 1. "The spits."
- A. 2. "Acid juice and alcohol."
- Q. Name a secretory organ and an excretory organ.
- A. "The brain secretes, and the tongue excretes."

GEOGRAPHY.

- Q. What are the political divisions of North America?
- A. 1. "The Arctic ocean, Atlantic ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Cambian sea."
- A. 2. "The republican and democratic."
- Q. What parts of North America belong to foreign countries?
- A. "The island of Java is located in North America, and belongs to Wilhelmina, queen of Holland. The Devil's island is located in South America and belongs to Germany."
- Q. What is the position of Japan?
- A. "It is like a dog with his feet crumpled up under him."
- Q. What affects climate?
- A. "Heat, cold and the atmosphere."
- A. "Manila is in the northwest part of Cuba."
- A. "The Declaration of Independence was written by Abraham Lincoln in 1862, and went into effect in 1863 at Washington, D. C."

ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

- Q. What is the origin of our alphabet?
- A. "The alphabet originated from the English language. Adam was the first man to speak the English language."
- Q. "Time flies." Give analysis.
- A. "Time is an adjective because it modifies the adverb flies; flies is an adverb because it adds something to the adjective flies."
- Q. What are pronouns?
- A. "I, he, she it. I is the first person, he is the second person, she is the third person, it is the fourth person. pronouns is used instead of a noun."
- Q. Give plural of alderman.
- A. "Alderman is a man that is older than a younger man."
- A. "German is a man that belongs to the Gewron or Cort."
- A. "A cort is a verb becais it signify what they are doing."
- A. "A cort martial is some kind of a utencil to use."
- A. "Utencil is a noun, BeCaus it is a name. i would be glad to now what grammer is the Best."

ON UNIFORMITY OF TEXT BOOKS.

- A. "The uniformity tex book is a good book to yuse. It have large print and pretty pictures, therefore I favor the uniformity tex book."

ON OUR FOREIGN POSSESSIONS.

- 1. "Our Foreign Possessions is good to help poor people when they are too poor to help themselves."
- 2. "Since Time first began to tide her wings of time, our foreign possessions have been riding the wings of time. We have for our foreign

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