

them feel at home; and some precious time is lost while they are becoming reconciled to the discomforts of their new situation. A boarding-house under the control of the normal school for the accommodation of students from the counties, (such of them at least as have no relatives in the city) is a matter of great importance, if not of absolute necessity. When a permanent building is erected, no doubt suitable provision will be made; but in the meantime, a house might be rented, cheaply furnished, and placed in charge of an experienced matron, where the students could form one family, and have proper facilities for reading and study. Boarding should be furnished at cost not exceeding \$3.50 a week, and the establishment made self-supporting, the rent only being paid by the State.

QUALIFICATIONS OF STUDENTS.

Of the 98 students who have entered, a few (most of them graduates of the Baltimore High schools) were well prepared for the studies proper to a Normal School; the majority, however, stood in need of elementary instruction. To have closed the doors against such would have served only to perpetuate the evil which this School is designed to remedy.— Some had left the Schools where they had been employed as Teachers for the purpose of availing themselves of the advantages of the Normal School, and if they had failed to obtain the needed instruction here, there was no place within their reach where they could procure it, except the District School, which had already done its best for them. The best policy seemed to be, to admit all applicants with the proper credentials, who might in the judgment of charity be expected to graduate in two years; and to raise the qualifications for admission gradually, as the District Schools themselves improve under the new influences to which they are exposed. It is gratifying to be able to state that experience has justified the course which policy and necessity dictated. Some of the students who were most backward at first, already give promise of becoming excellent teachers. It is hoped, however, that the other educational agencies in the State will do their work so thoroughly that the Normal School will soon be able to confine itself to the sphere contemplated by its founders—that of purely professional instruction and training.

FIRST FRUITS.

Twelve Graduates and six undergraduates of this School—a school only twelvemonths old—are now engaged in teaching. As far as has been heard from, they have all given satisfaction, though it must be remembered that the Normal School is responsible for Graduates only: and for them, in such schools only as their diplomas entitle them to teach. Considering the disadvantages under which the School has labored, in the