

the President of the School Board, to whom I am indebted for the tabular form printed in the appendix. If our Schools be organized according to this or some similar method, parents will have a standard by which to judge of the progress of their children, and will know where they ought to be upon the School roll, and to which class they properly belong. It will provide an easy criterion by which every friend of public education, who will devote a little time to visiting the School room, can test the skill of the teacher to organize his classes.

The table is presented merely as suggestive of what is needed to systematize the work of such schools as for many years to come, will form the majority in our rural districts. Some plan like this will encourage the children to study, and will awaken an ambition to answer the questions which secure advancement to a higher class.

To increase the interest of children in School work and enliven that dull routine which active little minds abhor, an effort has been made with some degree of success to introduce into the Public Schools.

VOCAL MUSIC, DRAWING AND CALISTHENICS.

Whenever the teacher has skill in any or all of these exercises, there has been marked improvement in the condition of the School. The pupils are pleased, parents are gratified and discipline is made easier because of contentment and good will. After the relaxation of a song, or the recreation of simple exercises in light Gymnastics, the children resume study with renewed vigor and interest.

Attention is given in the State Normal School to all these branches so that teachers in the Public Schools of Maryland, may become competent to teach vocal music, illustrate objects by drawing on the blackboard and enliven the pupils by the pleasing and graceful movements of the Calisthenics. Our object ought to be to make Schools attractive, and by persuasive influences rather than by compulsory laws draw the children to School that they may reap the benefits so liberally provided for them.

TRAVELS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To give a detailed statement of travel in the discharge of official duties would fill a small volume. It would be a description of the condition of the roads, the farms, towns and villages of the State. It would be a pleasant narrative of hospitality received from all classes of citizens, of happy hours passed in hundreds of School houses by the wayside, among thousands of intelligent boys and girls.

During the year every County has been visited, some of them twice, and also the Schools of the City of Baltimore. I