

proved discipline of the schools. From the nature of the case, no good work can be done in any organized system until authority is recognized and respected, and cheerful compliance with proper regulations assured.

Under the conditions from which the present public school system has emerged, it is not strange that there was lack of almost every essential of good discipline, and the advantages of centralized authority and control, and could hardly be more happily displayed than in the readiness with which disorder and confusion have disappeared under the application of these principles.

It is a grave mistake to regard the matter of discipline as of secondary importance in school work. If the main purpose of education is so to train the boys and girls of today that they may be the strong, upright, loyal men and women of tomorrow, the character of the discipline under which they are placed while at school should be a matter of most serious concern.

The unskilful teacher looks upon discipline merely as restraint from evil, and so whatever method will most easily effect this desired restraint is the one to be adopted. But the wise and skilful disciplinarian is he who is trying to direct the formation of character. With her the whip will not be the first resort, and it may not be the last. She will study the dispositions of her children, will acquaint herself with the social influences that surround them and seek to know the motives to which she can most effectively appeal in her efforts to induce right conduct. With the knowledge thus derived she is able to choose intelligently the means which will not merely restrain the pupil, but will also give him the power of self-control. Much is said nowadays about the evils of corporal punishment. But in my belief it would be a most unwise plan to suppress it entirely; for the restraining effect of its retention is such as in many cases to render its application unnecessary; yet the board has wisely put such checks upon its use as to prevent its being employed indiscriminately. The number of cases in which it has been resorted to is still too large and it is hoped that each succeeding year may show a marked decrease. Such decrease, however, must not come about from an unwillingness to use it on proper occasions, but from the better self-control of pupils, produced by intelligent discipline.

#### INSTRUCTION IN MORALS.

An essential condition of effective moral training is the respect for authority which has been mentioned. When this has been secured and the pupils thus brought under the daily influence of strong, true, highminded men and women, whose presence and example are a constant inspiration to all that is noble, he is the recipient of a moral training, the wholesome effects of which will be perpetual.

What I wish to make clear is my belief that during the periods of childhood and youth, when all the sensibilities are aglow with hopeful faith and buoyant expectation, of all the influences of the school, the one which will impress itself most indelibly upon the character of the pupil is that of the teacher's personality. And herein lies

the great necessity of securing those teachers only whose temper and spirit are ennobling.

But in addition to this, as directed by the rules of the board, it is the duty of teachers "on all proper occasions to impress upon the minds of their pupils the principles of morality and virtue, a sacred regard for truth, love to God, love to man, love of our country, sobriety, industry and frugality."

The teaching, of course, is to be done apart from the use of any denominational influence.

#### TEACHERS.

During the year the relations which I have sustained with the teachers have been of the most pleasant character. Where satisfactory work has not been done in the schoolroom, the teacher's attention has been called to the defect with perfect candor and frankness; but in every case the purpose has been so as to formulate the criticism as to stimulate improvement without discouraging honest efforts.

Any real success which the schools have achieved must be attributed to the labors of the teachers more than to any other agency.

The demands upon the modern teacher are very great. The time was when the teacher's influence was wielded mainly through the book in one hand and the rod in the other. Between her own personality and the pupil's there was a wall of partition fixed. But now all of that is changed. The teacher of today gives to her pupils more of herself than of books. Her duty is to give direction to the expanding powers of the child, to shape the character, to train the citizen. And for this nothing will avail but the inspiring, vitalizing presence of a teacher who loves her children and her work.

A teacher who is rightly impressed with the responsibilities of her position will spare no pains to prepare herself for her work, will be a close student of child nature, will keep herself informed as to the progress of educational thought in the world, and will not in her daily work attempt to gauge the amount of her services and obligations by the amount of her salary.

Fortnightly meetings of all the teachers have been held for the purpose of encouraging the adoption of right methods and the arousing of a true professional zeal among the teachers. These meetings have been supplemented by others for the different grades, and by such personal counsel and instruction as I have been able to give.

The very large amount of administrative work which has devolved upon me has prevented as frequent visitation of all the schools as I desired to make. The most effective supervision implies much personal observation of the daily work of the schools for the purpose of giving to all a common aim, and of directing the teaching, the discipline and the general conduct of the schools in such a way as to render them most efficient.

#### MUSIC AND DRAWING.

Though the work in music has met some serious interruptions during the year, it has on the whole yielded results as satisfactory as could have been expected under the circumstances. The year's experience, however, has shown the desirability of the preparation of

study in this department, to be carefully graded and placed in the hands of every teacher for daily use. A fifteen-minute exercise in music every day will do more to teach the art to children than an hour's time under the best instruction if given only once a week.

Something has been done in drawing in all the schools and an interest in the subject created. The work in a number of departments has been such as to excite much admiration. Next year, under the guidance of a competent specialist, it is hoped that this very important branch of study may be given its appropriate place in the course, rendering the schools still more a public benefit in fitting our pupils for practical usefulness.

#### CONCLUSION.

That the schools themselves or their management will ever be free from deserved criticism we do not expect. Errors of judgment are discernible in the administration of every public enterprise. The superintendent will regard it as helpful co-operation if any patron or citizen will call his attention, at any time, to faults connected in any way with the schools, or will suggest directions in which they think improvement could be effected. Such friendly criticisms and suggestions will always receive very respectful and careful attention; and thus the schools will become, in the broadest sense possible, people's schools.

In closing, I wish to express my thanks to every member of the Board, the teachers and the patrons for the courtesy which I have always received and for the generous support which has made it possible for me to attain any success in my efforts to elevate and improve the schools. Respectfully,

J. F. MILLSAUGH, Supt.

#### ELECTROCUTION OF FOUR MEN.

SING SING, N. Y., July 7.—The electrocution of the four murderers, Slocum, Smiler, Wood and Jugro, was done this morning. Slocum was killed at 4:42, Smiler at 5:14, Wood at 5:39 and Jugro at 6:06.

A group of newspaper men were lounging on the stone steps and bluff opposite the prison.

The first signal announcing that one of the men had paid the penalty for murder with his life was a small white flag which was run to the top of the pole and then pulled down. It was the prearranged signal that Slocum, the baseball player and the man who hacked his wife to death with an axe, had died just five minutes before the flag was set. The news was sent on a dozen waiting wires. A close calculation fixes the time of Slocum's death at 4:42:30.

There was a little bustle on the outside when the flag went up, but as soon as it was pulled down everything became quiet again. The deathlike silence which followed the bustle caused by the raising of the flag, was oppressive.

At 5:15 o'clock the first rays of the morning sun topped the eastern bluff and brightened up the scene.

The square of blue bunting which crawled slowly up the pole at 5:19 announced that Smiler the Salvation Army boy and slayer of his third wife,