

compound fraction the numerator could be lettered 'a,' the denominator 'b'; this leads to very careful setting out of work. A good idea in test-card work is for each pupil to get a set of cards for himself. In this way there can be no copying. The whole of the sixth standard course should be covered by August. I have found the progressive arithmetic the best in many ways. A good supplementary book for the working of applied fractions, vulgar and decimal, is *The Three Term Arithmetic*.

A Model French Lesson.

A model French lesson on the 'Direct method' was given at the Sacred Heart Convent, Remuera, when the members of the conference spent a very pleasant afternoon viewing the spacious building and beautiful grounds of the institution, and enjoying the warm-hearted hospitality of the good Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

The question, as to whether the direct method was a safe one to use with regard to preparation for examinations as held in this country, was asked. It was pointed out that a child taught on the direct method will frequently substitute one form of word for any other form that had the same sound—e.g., *aller, allez, allais, allait, allé, allée, allés*, etc. The mere sound would not suffice to differentiate the above forms. Grammar and written work are the only means to prevent such monstrosities.

The opinion was, that the direct method is good, but as a time saver and for results, a judicious mixture of spoken and written work is necessary.

CONSTITUTIONS OF THE AUCKLAND DIOCESAN CATHOLIC TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

Title: Auckland Diocesan Catholic Teachers' Institute. Objects: To safeguard and promote the interests of Catholic education. Membership: Confined to members of the religious Orders of the diocese, nominated by their superiors, with such of the clergy as his Lordship the Bishop shall appoint. Officers: A patron who shall be the Bishop, or the Administrator of the diocese; a president appointed by the Bishop; vice-presidents—The provincial Superiors of the religious Orders and such others as the executive shall from time to time elect; and a secretary and treasurer elected by the executive, not necessarily from amongst its own members. The executive shall consist of president, secretary, and two representatives from each Order nominated by the provincial Superiors, together with the provincial Superiors as *ex officio* members. Four shall form a quorum. The duty of the executive shall be to conduct the affairs of the institute in the intervals between general meetings. The executive shall meet at least quarterly—in January, April, July, and October. The membership fee shall be one shilling per annum. The constitutions were adopted by the conference, on the motion of Brother Fergus, seconded by Rev. Father Murphy.

The following were appointed the executive:—Rev. Father Murphy (president), Sisters M. Bertille and M. Laurencia (Sisters of St. Joseph), Sisters M. Josephine and M. Benignus (Sisters of Mercy), Mother St. Ephrem and Mother Obedience (Sisters of the Mission), Brothers Calixtus and Virgilius (Marist Brothers).

Votes of Thanks.

Prior to the close of the sessions, a hearty vote of thanks and appreciation was accorded the Rev. Mother Superiors, who had so ably assisted the conference by the facilities they had given to the members of their Orders to be in attendance; also to the Rev. Father Murphy (president), who, notwithstanding the many calls upon his time, made an excellent chairman, and devotedly assisted the conference in many ways; to the visiting clergy, who, by their valuable pecuniary assistance, added to their enthusiasm and sympathy, tided the conference over the first obstacles that had to be surmounted; to the Sisters of Mercy, on whom fell the largest share of the necessary work in making provision for the comforts of the members.

After a vote of thanks to the secretary for his efforts in the business section of the conference, the Right Rev. Mgr. Mahoney, V.G., addressed the gathering. He said that a new era had begun in the work of education. He was pleased with the success of the new movement, and hoped to give a good report of it to the Bishop.

Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, given by Monsignor Mahoney, assisted by Rev. Fathers Taylor, Dunphy, and Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook, brought the conference to a close.

FRENCH PREMIER AND ANTI-CLERICALS

In the name of the groups of the Liberal Action, of the Independents, and of the Right MM. Jacques Piau, de Gailhard-Baucel, Groussau, Joseph Denais, V. Rochereau, Admiral Bienaimé, Galpin, Ferdinand Bongere, de Baudry d'Asson, Jules Delahaye, and de Kernier, French Deputies, waited on M. Briand, the French Premier, to call the Government's attention to the odious campaign carried on by the *Depeche de Toulouse* and other journals against the Catholics and their clergy.

M. Briand said that he shared the indignation of the members of the deputation and that as the head of the Government he intended to condemn formally every attack directed by 'the Boches of the Interior,' against the Catholics who were nobly doing their duty, being well able to bear comparison with any others.

The Premier, in order that there might be no mistake as to what he said to the members of the deputation, put his statements in the following letter which he has addressed to them.

Paris, the 29th March, 1916.

Gentlemen and dear Colleagues,—You have called my attention to 'the campaign carried on against both the clergy and certain classes of good Frenchmen,' and whilst informing me that an infamous rumor, circulated sometimes imperceptibly and sometimes in the most open manner, accuses them of having pushed the country into the war and then shrunk from dangerous duties and even become 'the accomplices of the enemy,' you have asked the Government to do justice in the matter.

Complaints have also reached me of imputations of the same kind which have been made against citizens belonging to other classes of society or other parties, and notably against the members of certain groups, whose patriotism has been called in question because of their advanced ideas on social or political affairs.

Up to the present these attacks have remained isolated and have taken no effective hold of public opinion; without overlooking them, we must not exaggerate their importance.

In any case, from whatever quarter they come and against whatever class of citizens they are aimed, they must be severely reprobated. Most frequently they proceed from ulterior motives and from a controversial spirit altogether out of place in face of the enemy. Moreover, they are entirely unjustifiable.

The truth, of which we have reason to be proud, is that all Frenchmen, without distinction of social condition or of religious or political opinion, are doing their duty in the war. The Government accordingly intends to oppose any attempt to set up between them, on any pretext, differences in this respect, at the risk of making them suspect one to the other and of thus violating the sacred union which is the essential condition of victory.

Already it has given orders to the civil and military authorities to search out actively and hesitate not to deliver up to justice those who may endeavor to cause trouble in the country by campaigns of calumny which can only serve the interests of the enemy. You may be certain that it will take care the instruction it has given on this subject shall be executed with the necessary vigilance and firmness.

But I am convinced that it will not be absolutely necessary to resort to repression and that in order