

A Scheme is devised by which
they are enabled to get
Some Wm Elementary
Knowledge of "Science"
Progress cannot be expected
in national schools.

Prayer ever all this -

Faithfully yours

H. J. J. J.

Professor Fitzgerald F.T.C.D

19/53

Albert J. J.
Jasuevin
8 May 1896

Dear Sir

I read with genuine
pleasure in the Irish Times the
short report of your last night's
lecture. I trust you will
"keep pecking away" at this
until all of the national
school teachers who are preparing
for this classification are
obliged to take useful science
subjects before they get their
"class".

Until the teachers are
compelled to this I fear

19/53

they will hold back. The faculty of observation is being bred out of and educated out of our people.

Some time ago I had a class of boys in a field - asked them at what distance asparagus should turn up stands after "thinning"?

Ten to twelve inches replied all the boys - right according to book I asked first boy to mark ten inches from a plant that was standing alone. He marked a space of about

15 in. Not one of the six boys had the slightest intelligent idea of the space or of its relation to a foot. Teachers thought the question was scarcely according to programme. I will undertake to show that fifty per cent of the boys of 6th class in a rural school will not know how to set off a space of $3.6\frac{1}{2}$ in with a "two foot ruler". Our teachers must be taught and until