

EXAMINATIONS.

BY W. M. G.

(At the end of each verse, the reader draws a deep sigh and exclaims "Examinations!")

The other night I went to bed,
But not to sleep, for my poor head
Was filled with a most awful dread.

Examinations!

I thought of this, and then of that;
Of set and sit; which goes with sat?
I fear my brain has run to fat.

Examinations!

Next came the base and rate, per cent.,
Of money to an agent sent,
And with that word all of them went.

Examinations!

Then my lessons I try to spell;
Which words have two, and which, one L?
Oh, my poor brain! I cannot tell.

Examinations!

Where is Cape Cod, and where Pekin?
Where do the rivers all begin?
A high per cent. I cannot win.

Examinations!

Who was John Smith? What did he do?
And all the other fellows, too?
You must tell me, I can't tell you.

Examinations!

Oh, Welcome sleep! at last it came;
But not to rest me, all the same;
For in my dreams this is my bane—

Examinations!

—N. Y. School Journal.

THE CHILD AND THE YEAR,

Said the child to the youthful year:
"What hast thou in store for me
Oh, giver of beautiful gifts! what cheer,
What joy dost thou bring with thee?"

"My seasons four shall bring
Their treasures, the winter's snows,
The autumn's store, and the flowers of spring,
And the summer's perfect rose.

"All these and more shall be thine,
Dear child,—but the last and best
Thyself must earn by a strife divine,
If thou wouldst be truly blest.

"Wouldst know this last, best gift?
'Tis a conscience clear and bright,
A peace of mind which the soul can lift
To an infinite delight.

"Truth, patience, courage, and love,
If thou unto me canst bring,
I will set thee all earth's ills above,
Oh, child! and crown thee a king!"—*Celia Thaxter.*

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Literary Reviews.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL ARITHMETIC, *Ginn and Company, Boston, Mass.*

Of all the subjects taught in our schools arithmetic should receive as much, if not more, attention than any of the others, for there is nothing more essential to the business of every-day life. In order to stimulate the pupil to further efforts the book must be both attractive and practical. In these respects this "Arithmetic" takes a prominent position, the problems being such as the business man meets with at all times. The exercises are so arranged as to follow each other in the natural order; this we can say of few arithmetics. The chapter on interest is especially deserving of commendation, while pages 241 and 242 are a great boon to the student. Again, mensuration is dealt with so thoroughly as to be a credit to any author. It is a work which should be in the hands of every teacher, and pupils preparing for commercial pursuits would derive much benefit from it.

TOMMY'S FIRST SPEAKER. Edited by Tommy himself.—*W. H. Harrison, Jr., 315 Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill.* Price 50 cents.

This book claims to be a "Speaker really suitable for very little children," and contains 250 pieces, short and easily learned. The editor—Tommy—is not, as may be supposed, the astrologist who explained the mystical legends of the signs of the zodiac in "Grip's Almanac" for this year; he is a gray-haired philanthropist, of Chicago, who remembers his fondness for juvenile literary pleasures, and has embodied, in an extremely appropriate collection, an amount of matter that is specially interesting to little folks of both sexes. In catering for Friday afternoon exercises there is, we believe, too much thought of the older pupils. Why not provide some entertainment also for the younger ones? When you do, seek "Tommy" and you will not regret his acquaintance.

THOSE DREADFUL MOUSE BOYS.—By Ariel. A Story for Old and Young. *Ginn & Company, Boston, Mass.*

At first glance this attractive book may seem to be a nice story for children, merely to interest them for the moment, but beneath the surface older readers will detect a skeleton garlanded with fancies which may be the story of human lives. There is a deep, moral lesson conveyed in the history of the "Mouse Boys" that cannot be without a lasting effect on the minds of juvenile readers; selfish desires and deeds are contrasted with generous motives and acts. The whole spirit of the fable is humorously instructive. The illustrations are quaint and numerous. The book, a small quarto, is neatly bound in cloth, gold lettered, and will be mailed for \$1.00.

THE KING OF THE GOLDEN RIVER.—A Legend of Stiria. By John Ruskin, M.A. "Classics for Children" series. *Ginn & Company, Boston, Mass.* Price 20 cents.

We congratulate the enterprising publishers on having gotten up a series of "Classics for Children" which provides our young folks with pure, wholesome, supplementary reading. The idea is admirable, and the plan is happily carried out. The banishment of such destructive reading as is furnished in cheap, sensational trash, is sure when literature of the nature provided in this series is placed in the hands of the "rising generation," and the effect must be beneficial to society.

ASTRONOMY FOR BEGINNERS. In thirty-two lessons, with illustrations. By Francis Fellowes, M.A. *New York, John Wiley & Sons. Toronto Williamson & Company, 1885, 135 pp.*

Here we have a little book on an immense subject. If this book were a mere compilation of facts it would be as interesting to the public as the nautical almanac for 1883, now published. But it has no resemblance to an almanac, or to Collier's History of England, or to Hodgins' History of Canada, or any such soul-inspiring compilation. Not that the method is a new method, Bacon having invented it or stolen it several centuries ago, its watchword being, "Observe and know!" In this book the young student is advised, and as he proceeds is fairly forced, to leave the printed page and see for himself what is going on in that diamond-studded dome under which our little lives are spent. He is thus led to a true appreciation of the phenomena and the laws of the heavens, not without something of the feeling of joy that must have thrilled the breast of Galileo when nature's eternal virtues first dawned before him. Mr. Fellowes is evidently a writer of excellent taste, a man of literary culture, and his book is full of choice classical allusions and stories, fittingly indicative of the poetic charm interwoven with the study of the heavens by national and individual youth in all ages of the world. The star maps and other illustrations are well designed and beautifully executed. We can confidently recommend this little volume to all who wish to begin the study of astronomy.