

Mr. William Brodie, A. B., principal of the St. Andrew's High School, has resigned to the regret not only of his pupils and school board, but of the community as well. Mr. Brodie has been principal of this school for fourteen years, during each succeeding year of which his usefulness has increased. Few high schools have maintained a better standard than that of St. Andrews, and few are more amply equipped, all of which is largely due to the retiring principal, supported as he has been by the trustees and community. Mr. Brodie expects to take a post-graduate course either at Harvard or McGill.

A meeting of the executive of the Charlotte County Teachers' Institute was held in St. Andrews on the evening of April 27th, at which a tentative programme was arranged. The time of meeting this year will be September 14th and 15th and the place St. Andrews. A new feature will be attempted this year, that of inviting each school board in the county to send representatives. In view of this the programme has been made up to embrace subjects of common interest. There will be a debate on "Centralization of Rural Schools," to be participated in by trustees and others interested. Among other subjects may be mentioned "How Shall We Induce Our Older Boys to Continue at School?" "The Best Means of Securing the Co-operation of the Home and School." "How Shall We Induce a Greater Interest in School Grounds, Roadsides and Waste Places?" "Charlotte County Birds." It is hoped to be able to induce a much larger number of teachers to participate in the work of this institute by making five and ten minute papers the rule. Mr. William Brodie, A. B., St. Andrews, is president, and Mr. Jas. Vroom, St. Stephen, is secretary.

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 20 (2) of the School Law Manual, Inspector Mersereau has appointed Friday, May 12th, to be observed as Arbor Day.

During the month of April Inspector Carter has had combined meetings of teachers and trustees in St. John (West), St. Stephen, Milltown and St. Andrews.

An invitation has been extended to the teachers, school officers and parents of Charlotte County, N. B., to attend an educational convention to be held in Calais, Me., on the evening of May 10th, and during the day of May 11th next. Among those to be present are State Superintendent Stetson, Dr. A. E. Winship, editor of *New England Journal of Education*, and Principals Corthell and Richardson of State Normal schools.

Miss Josie Henry, teacher at Lynnfield, Charlotte County, N. B., has by means of a school concert raised enough money to have the schoolhouse painted.

Mrs. A. F. Robinson, formerly of Moncton, has completed her course at the Chicago Kindergarten College.

The many friends of Alex. Robinson in New Brunswick have learned with satisfaction of his elevation to the chief superintendency of the schools of British Columbia. Supt. Robinson was born in Kings County, N. B., educated at Sussex and Dalhousie College, and had a successful career as a teacher here. With men such as he, assisted by Principal Stramburg, of the Westminster High School, Inspectors Wilson, Cowperthwaite and other Maritime Province men and women, the educational interests of British Columbia are well served.

## RECENT BOOKS.

The author is a Nova Scotian with a Harvard University education, and, better still, with a training at the foot of Nature as well as on the arena of the business world. His home is at Brookfield, in the environment of the most picturesque scenery of Queens County. His book<sup>1</sup> is a series of word-painted nature pictures taken along the Molega Road. It illustrates the kind of instruction which should be given to the pupils attending our public schools in every school throughout the province. It shows what entrancing scenery is hung up by every roadside trod morning and evening by weary scholars, most of whom had never had their eyes opened to the charms of their monotonous way. It shows how they might begin to observe, and illustrates the important deductions which stimulate the reason to enquire into and discover the true meaning of their complex and mysterious environment. Everything has its meaning—its wonderful meaning when we know how to discover it.

While the author is extensively read in the general science literature of the age, he has not attempted to investigate the work done in all departments in his own province. This independence of local observation adds its own charm to his work, for we feel that he is not giving us at second hand what has been observed by others. It has the interest and value of independent and original work. And this is just the work that the most of our teachers are afraid to try. They want to see something in a book first and then search for it in nature, instead of going out into nature with eyes and patience to get something to put into a book. If they tried the latter plan they would learn something useful and discover a new world of pleasure, and even exalted joy.

The sixteen chapters of "Nature Studies" are most readable English. Sometimes we think of Kipling's inimitable "Jungle Stories," sometimes of our own Thompson's "Animals I Have Known," and sometimes it is Grant Allen philosophizing. It opens with a chapter on and a photo of the "Woods," showing the author himself on the ground in one of his loafing, philosophizing moods. Then there are chapters on "A Butterfly," "Oak-Apples," "Hares," "Weasels" and "Spiders." There is a description of a spider fight here, fought one bright morning on a dew-bedecked "wheel-web" by the side of the Molega Road, as thrilling as the sketch of a Spanish bull-fight. Then there is a chapter on "A Gold Mine," in which there is a rich and accessible mine of Nova Scotian geology, for the author is one of our best informed gold mine owners. Then we have a chapter on a "Lunch by the Brookside," which shows how lunches and brooksides may be made a hundredfold more enjoyable; on the "Cat-Owl," "Ledges," "Bats," "By the Riverside," "The Red Squirrel," "Birds," "Micmac Indians," and "Puff-Balls, Toadstools and That Sort of Thing."

Teachers who have read the illustrated articles in the "Fern-dale" and other series in the REVIEW will find many of these objects treated in an original manner, not only suggestive, but highly instructive. The printers, as they always do, have allowed occasional slips in the scientific names to creep in. But they do not affect the usefulness nor the pleasure-giving qualities of the book. The pupil as well as the teacher, the parent as well as the general public, will find it to be as entertaining as a good novel. For the most of them it will be really

<sup>1</sup>IN THE ACADIAN LAND—NATURE STUDIES, by Robert R. McLeod. 168 pages; 7x4.5 inches; cloth; 75 cents. Boston: Bradlee Whidden, 1899.