

VII. Short Critical Notices of Books.

—The ALDINE* for May sustains the extremely good reputation which the publication has acquired since its first issue. This month's illustrations of scenery in Florida by T. D. Woodward—a subject seldom attempted, and still more seldom successfully treated—are excellent. In addition to their value as delineations of tropical scenery, they are really fine pictures, especially "Moonrise on the coast of Florida!"—"The Hemlocks of Lake Ostego," by Mr. Hows, a more northern story, is good. The other illustrations are "A Dying Hound," (a touching incident of the "Deerslayer" times), "The Bashful Lover," "A Retriever," and "The New Capitol at Hartford, Conn." The letter press contains, among other things, an account of the Exhibition of the American Society of water-color Painters, which contains criticisms on Foreign artists who contributed to the Exhibition—some of which sound strange to our ears.

—THE LAND OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT,† by Frank Vincent, Junr.—A volume of travel in Farther India, Burmah, Siam and Cambodia; or as the author poetically terms it, the "Land of the White Elephant." This is a region which must now attract our thoughts as we view the influx of so many of the neighbouring people (the heathen "chince") into our continent, knowing as we do the important changes which have been silently in progress in Japan, and other eastern countries, and which the writer assures us are spreading to the land where he has been travelling, and about which he has here written. The only merit the author claims for his book is one which cannot be too steadily kept in view by writers, that of *truth*. It is one which is constantly obtaining more recognition as superior to beauty of style, and which should underlie the rest—though not as some put it, far too deep down to be seen or felt. It is not this, however, as Mr. Vincent modestly asserts, which is the only recommendation of his book, for we do not doubt that the interesting descriptions of many places which he visited will be read with great interest by those who have themselves seen the "White Elephant," and not less so by those who are as yet but prospecting voyageurs.

—THE ATMOSPHERE,‡ by Camille Hammarion, edited by James Glashier, F.R.S. This is, as the Editor of the English edition tells us, an abridgment of a most exhaustive work in a popular form on the science of Meteorology. Our planet, light, temperature, wind, clouds and rain and electricity, in fact, everything which bears on this comparatively modern science, is treated in a way which makes it especially valuable to a student, without degenerating into every general reader's horror—a mere text book. The work is well illustrated with over ninety chromos and woodcuts of interesting phenomena, while the style is like that of most French writers, easy and flowing. We commend the book as a most valuable one to those who, like ourselves, like to speculate over the daily weather "probabilities" of the meteorological Bureau.

—We have received the Library edition of Adolphus Trollope's "Diamond cut Diamond," and Gail Hamilton's latest, "Twelve miles from a Lemon," the latter we shall refer to in our next number.

VIII. Departmental Notices.

VOTERS FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Several inquiries having been made as to whether all persons holding valid certificates are entitled to be enrolled in the list of voters for a member of the Council of Public Instruction, notice is hereby given, that the law confines that privilege to the "Teachers in the Public and Separate Schools." Those who are not in active service in the Schools at the time the list is being made up and corrected, that is to say between 15th June and 14th July, are not entitled to vote.

NOTICE.

The Spring Term of the High Schools this year will close on Friday, 26th June, in order to facilitate the holding of the entrance examinations on the 29th and 30th of that month.

ENGRAVINGS OF SCHOOL HOUSE PLANS.

The Chief Superintendent of Education proposes to have engraved and inserted, from time to time, in the *Journal of Education*, the perspective and ground plan, with description of any Public or High School House in Ontario which may be sent to him for that purpose, and which he may deem of sufficient merit to warrant it. The perspective and plan may either be from a photograph or a sketch; but the perspective should in no case exceed six inches in length by four in width, and the plan should not be larger than three inches by four. A full description of the building, with specifications, should also be sent for insertion in the *Journal*.

PAYMENT OF TEACHERS' CHEQUES.

The Education Department requests that Inspectors will add the following words to the cheques which they may issue to Public Schools, or write them across the face of the cheque:—
"This cheque must be presented to the Treasurer for payment within two weeks of its date."

Inspectors generally complain of the great remissness of Trustees not sending in their orders until too often the amount payable to teachers has been apportioned and is available for them—even after the Trustees have been notified on the subject by the Inspector. One Inspector suggests as a remedy, "These Trustees blank orders attached to the inside of the blank half-yearly returns, with directions to have them signed and forwarded with the returns."

CORRESPONDENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

1. Letters should be addressed to the "Education Office," or "Education Department," and not to the "Normal School," which is a Branch of the Department, having its own letter-box at the Post Office.

2. Application for Maps, Apparatus, Prize or Library Books should (as stated on the face of them) be accompanied with the remittance named in the application. It should not be enclosed in a separate envelope, unless the fact is specially noted on the application. Very often the application (stating that a certain sum *is enclosed*) comes in one envelope and the money in another. This discrepancy should not occur without an explanation being given in the letter. The Post Office authorities do not now allow the form of application filled up to pass through the post as printed matter.

3. The name of the Post Office of the writer, or School Section, should invariably be mentioned in the letter. Frequently letters are received without either the date or post office being given in them.

4. Letters are often posted and registered at one office, while another one is mentioned in the letters themselves. This fact should be noted in the letter by the writer, otherwise the discrepancy causes confusion and inconvenience in the letter registry of money receipts.

EXAMINATION PAPERS.

The sets of Examination Papers used in the Normal School during the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th Sessions can be sent free of postage on receipt of 30 cents each. Those of the 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 31st, 33rd, 36th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd and 44th Sessions, at 40 cents each, and those of the 45th, 47th and 48th Sessions, at 50 cents each.

The entire sets of Examination Papers for First, Second and Third Class Teachers for July 1871, July 1873, or December, 1873, neatly stitched, can be sent free of postage on receipt of 60 cents per set. Those used at the County Examinations for Second and Third Class Teachers for July 1871, July 1872, December 1872, July 1873, or December, 1873, can also be sent, free of postage, on receipt of 50 cents per set.

* Toronto Office, 50 King St., East.

† Harper and Brothers, New York; Hart and Rawlinson (late Copp, Clark & Co.,) Toronto.