

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

---

Botany.

Principal Lay of the Amherst Academy, Cumberland, N. S., is doing good practical work in Botany with his students.

Dr. Koch, the celebrated German bacteriologist, has been appointed professor in the University of Berlin.

The following species of plants have been reported. *Andromeda polifolia* in Shelburne Co., N. S., Rev. Jas. Rossborough; *Asclepias incarnata* at Grand Lake, N. S., *Sagittaria graminea*, *Brasenia peltata* and *Myriophyllum tenellum* at Dartmouth Lakes, Halifax Co., N. S., by MacKay.

The minimum of botanical work fixed by the Educational Association of Nova Scotia for the first term's work in the Academic course of study, is the complete history, analysis and classification of 50 species common to every section of the province, with the characters of the *genera* and *orders* to which they belong.

---

Mineralogy.

Platinum has been discovered in Alder gulch, Montana.

New discoveries of Antimony ores are being made in Hants Co., N.S.

In places in Wyoming there are deposits of pure soda from ten to fifteen feet thick.

The total amount of mica mined in the United States in 1882 is said, on good authority, to be about 65,000 pounds, valued at \$250,000.

A region containing unlimited deposits of native sulphur has been discovered in the Yellowstone Park. Heretofore it has been obtained only in Greenland.

---

Entomology

The Forest Tent Caterpillar has not yet reappeared in the north of the province, since its sudden and unexplained extinction two years ago.

The Colorado Beetle is still spreading in Nova Scotia, although it has not been allowed to increase to a very destructive extent. A vigilant and continuous system of checking them may repress their ravages.

---

Zoology

The common Star Fish and common Sea-urchin or Sea-egg can be had in unlimited abundance by dropping into a boat by a wharf in Halifax, N. S., and fishing them up from the wharf sides, &c., by means of a scoop net or an oar.