

Park and will give the property to McGill University. A new campus and residential buildings will be established upon it. The purchase price was over \$1,000,000. Including the cost of MacDonald College and its endowment, this brings Sir William MacDonald's total gifts to McGill University to \$10,000,000.

The Governor General's Challenge Shield for cadet corps competitions has been won by the Winnipeg Highland Cadet Battalion.

Miss Margaret Grey, who has taught in the Winter Street School, St. John, for the past thirty years, has resigned. Her fellow teachers presented her with a substantial token of their esteem.

The teachers of the primary schools in Yarmouth, N. S., gave the children their annual treat of a Christmas tree before the schools closed for Christmas vacation.

The Ontario Education Department, believing that the present European war, its causes and the reasons for Britain's share in it, should be fully grasped by the school children of the province, has decided to incorporate the study of it in the curriculum of the present school year. It will appear as part of the history course in the grades where it will be understood easily, and questions on it will be given in the promotion examinations. In this connection the Government is sending to each school a copy of the British diplomatic despatches issued at Ottawa.

The circular issued suggests that generously disposed citizens as well as school boards shall under suitable conditions offer prizes for essays on one or more of the phases of the present struggle.

Mr. Harold H. McKiel, who had charge of the school at Greenwich Centre, Kings Co., N. B., recently enlisted for active service abroad, and is now with the Second Contingent at St. John. He attended Normal School last term and is but eighteen years of age. He is a son of Mr. W. W. McKiel, of Brown's Flat, and brother of Miss Nina E. McKiel, the teacher at Oak Point.

Following the example of Toronto, the schools of St. John are beginning to prepare scrap books of newspaper clippings to be sent to the Canadian soldiers in England at short intervals.

The total contribution of the teachers of St. John to the Red Cross Fund will amount to over \$900.

The report of the Halifax School for the Blind shows that during the past year 193 students have been in attendance. It is regrettable that the treasurer should have to report a deficit of over \$3,000. This Institution is worthy of the most generous support from the public.

We regret to record the death at Sackville, on December 24th, of Miss Laura Lathern, for twenty-one years teacher of English and Latin at the Ladies' College, Mount Allison.

BOOK NOTICES.

Causeries en France, by E. E. Patton, is a very practical little book of French conversations, with clear and sensible grammatical notes, intended for travellers, and readers of modern French. It contains in addition, a useful and convenient hand-book, in the good binding and print that we expect from its publishers, D. C. Heath & Co., Boston. [187 pages. 70 cents].

The *Second Year Direct French Course*, by G. A. Roberts and H. J. Chaytor, consists mainly of a reader, with a great variety of questions and exercises on the reading matter, but has also about fifty pages of outlines of grammar, in French. The reading lessons give a good deal of interesting information about the life of a French school boy, and the many illustrations, especially those of scenes in Paris, add much to the value. [216 pages. University Tutorial Press, London].

The cover of *Stories of London* with the arms and motto of the city, at once attracts us, and the promise of the outside is fully kept by the contents. E. L. Hoskyn has told in a very entertaining way some of the many stories which reflect the life of London, and cling around its famous buildings and streets. They are told especially for London children, but all children of the Empire who hope (as who does not?), one day to visit London should know them. The book is beautifully illustrated in colour, and has a preface by Dr. Sophie Bryant. A charming book for teachers to read to children beginning to study English History. [63 pages. 1s. Adam and Charles Black, London, W.].

From the same firm we have a set of travel pictures which we heartily recommend to the consideration of geography teachers. Fifty pictures, half in black and white, the rest in colour, are fastened into a stout paper cover, so that they can be taken out for purposes of study. How they are to be studied so as to stimulate the imagination and impress facts, is directed in a series of problems and exercises. We have sets on Europe and Asia, but others are published. [Black's Travel Pictures—Europe and Asia. 10d. the set. A. & C. Black, London, W.].

Gulliver's Travels, is a book that every boy and girl should read. A very pretty edition comes from the well known publishing house of Ginn & Company. It contains the voyage to Lilliput, and the voyage to Brobdingnag, edited by Edward K. Robinson, and with interesting illustrations by Charles Copeland. The text is given very nearly in the original form, with only such changes as we should all prefer to see in the interests of good taste. So many classics are reprinted for children with regrettable omissions and changes, upon poor paper, and in bad print, that we are particularly grateful to Messrs. Ginn & Company for an attractive and trustworthy book like this at the modest price of forty cents.

A new volume in the Junior Regional Geography series, written by J. B. Reynolds, is on the Americas, and is more especially adapted for the use of children in English schools, but we can strongly recommend it to Canadian teachers as a supplementary hand-book. The many suggestions, questions and problems at the end of each chapter would be a great help to the teacher who has no special knowledge of geography, and few books on the subject. The eighty-two illustrations are varied and educational. [184 pages. Adam & Charles Black, London. 1s. 4d.].

From Messrs. Black we have also *Outlines of Physical Geography*, by H. Clive Barnard, a convenient little volume covering the ground in that subject required for the Oxford and Cambridge Locals. Very much condensed, it is clearly written, and here again the illustrations, diagrams and thought-compelling problems are very valuable. [160 pages. 1s. 6d.].