

# The Educational Review.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

UNDER the head of "Educational Opinion" will be found from time to time several short paragraphs from a capital abstract in the Halifax *Herald* of the report of Supervisor McKay on the Halifax Schools for the year 1889. No American educationist is more energetic in his work, more cautious in coming to his conclusions, and clearer in discovering the drift of the age than Mr. McKay. His views are therefore not only valuable for the teacher, but for those who are directing or influencing public educational anywhere.

THE natural history subjects hitherto treated in "Ferndale School" lesson may shortly be resumed in a systematic and concise outline for the use of teachers and pupils, under such titles as "52 Common Insects," "52 Common Birds."

THE New Brunswick Natural History Society has lately purchased the museum of the St. John Mechanics' Institute, embracing a most valuable collection of natural history objects. This, with the large collection that is already possessed by the Society will make its museum a valuable one to students.

AS USUAL during the last few years a very interesting and largely attended institute of teachers was held in Amherst just before the Christmas vacation. We regret that we were unable to obtain a summary of the work in time for the January number.

WE ARE glad to observe the success with which the Pictou Academy is bringing good musical instruction down to a minimum cost by the class system. The musical department has four classes, namely, Piano, Voice Culture, and Harmony, under the charge of Miss Annie McDonald, a distinguished graduate of the New England Conservatory; and the Violin, under Miss MacKinlay, a pupil of the famous Julius Eichberg. The Academy Calendar gives an outline of the curriculum of the various classes. It covers essentially the first three grades of the New England Conservatory in Pianoforte and Voice Culture. Class and public recitals are given at the end of each term of three months. From the Pictou papers we gather that the public recital, January 30th, was a very creditable showing. A list of the standing of pupils in the various classes are also regularly published. From personal knowledge we know that nowhere is more thorough work done.

DR. T. H. RAND, who is spending the winter in London, contributes an article in the last *Messenger and Visitor* on the funeral of the late Robert Browning in Westminster Abbey. The impressive ceremony is described in language that is touching and poetic, and will be read with interest by Dr. Rand's many friends in these provinces.

A LITTLE PAMPHLET, "Kingston and the Loyalists of 1783," just issued from the press of Barnes & Co., by W. O. Raymond, will be read with great interest, containing, as it does, so many reminiscences of the early history of New Brunswick. It narrates events in the life of Walter Bates and other loyalists, and contains portraits of Right Rev. Charles Inglis, first bishop of Nova Scotia, and of the Right Rev. Bishop Medley. Rev. Mr. Raymond, to whom the public are indebted for editing and publishing this pamphlet, has a short introduction, and his notes will be of great service.