

Literary Chat.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co., will soon publish a volume of the poems written by Mr. Whittier since 1883.

Electra comes to us enlarged and improved. It is a magazine of pure literature for the homes. Edited by Annie E. Wilson and Isabella M. Leyburn, Louisville, Kentucky.

Latine et Græce, edited by Edgar S. Shumway, Professor of Latin in Rutgers College, New Jersey, is a valuable magazine for the scholar and the teacher of the ancient classics.

Unity and *The University* have been consolidated, and the two papers now appear as *Unity and the University*. In *The University* were already incorporated *The Weekly Magazine*, *The Educational News* and *The Fortnightly Index*.

Habit and its Importance in Education is the title of a book soon to be published by D. C. Heath & Co., in their series of "Educational Classics." It is a translation of Dr. Paul Radestock's work, with an introduction by Dr. G. Stanley Hall, of Johns Hopkins University.

D. C. Heath & Co., of Boston, will publish, about March 20th, *Systems of Education*, by John Gill, Professor of Education, Normal College, Cheltenham, England. It is a history and criticism of the principles, methods, organization, and moral discipline advocated by eminent educationists.

Treasure Trove, *Harper's Young People*, *The Youth's Companion*, *St. Nicholas*, *Our Little Men and Women*, *Our Little Ones* and *Nursery*, etc., are all before us. What fountains of entertainment for little children and big ones! The United States and England vie with each other in the production of this class of journals. Each has its special adaptations and excellencies, and all are so cheap that most parents can, and will if they are wise, put several of them into the hands of their little ones. They are an education in themselves.

EROSUS OF ANCIENT HISTORY.—The Spartan and Theban Supremacies. By Charles Sankey, M.A. With maps. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Chicago: S. A. Maxwell & Co.)—This is highly valuable, interesting and compressed record of a distinctive period in Hellenic history, based largely upon the writings of Xenophon and Plutarch. It is also an inquiry into the causes that led to the downfall of Greece, and so well has the author done his work that it has all the fascination of a great dramatic tragedy. Much detail is given in the way of military campaigns, personal history and political complication, but without confusion. The book is carefully indexed, and its parts so well arranged that it could be used to great advantage in the schools.—*The Current*.

Teachers' Association.

STORMONT.—Pursuant to notice the Stormont Teachers' Institute was held in the Public School Building, Cornwall, on the 11th and 12th inst. The President, A. McNaughton, I. P. S., in his opening address, informed the teachers present of the changes that had taken place in the management of the institutes, and the provision made by government to ensure their efficiency.

The ex-pupils of the Ottawa Normal School went in a body to the station to meet and welcome Principal McCabe, who was expected to conduct the institute work.

As the outcome of a discussion on the recent uniform and promotion examinations, a committee was appointed to devise some more uniform, expeditious, and less troublesome method of arriving at the result of such examination. A circular from the Minister of Education, marking out a course of reading for the profession, was laid before the assembly. The offers of the publishers of the *Educational Weekly* and "CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL" concerning their publication were respectively considered, resulting in the formation of clubs for each of the above-mentioned periodicals.

Mr. Cook read an essay on "The Teacher," suggestive and practical. A few brief rules for the guidance of the teacher were thus summarized at the close of an important paper. He should win the pupils' respect; should not promote too hastily; should not command too much; should use corporal punishment seldom; should keep pupils busy; should teach, not *hear* lessons; should give a hearty support to all that is good.

Mr. Gilmore gave a paper on "School Discipline." He defined school discipline as that which keeps the school members in their proper places. He emphasized the fact that in dealing with individuals home training must not be ignored. And on the part of the teacher there must always be truthfulness, promptness, candor, kindness, and self-control.

Mr. McCabe was introduced, and after expressing the pleasure he felt in meeting the teachers of Stormont, proceeded to give a lecture on "Mental Culture." This lecture, which was full of educational matter of profound interest, was closely followed throughout, and warmly appreciated by those who were favored by it.

Mr. Keating followed with a paper on "Our Profession." He urged upon teachers the necessity of placing a higher estimate upon their professional labors. He reminded them of the responsibility involved in their particular calling, and said the teacher's aim should be to educate, his object not so much to furnish knowledge as the means of procuring it.

In the evening Mr. McCabe lectured in the assembly room of the Public School Building. Subject, "Our Educational System. What good is it doing? What harm?" Mr. McNaughton occupied the chair. A large and intelligent audience were delighted and profited by the thoughts presented to them in the course of the evening. Judge Curman highly complimented Mr. McCabe on his lecture, especially that part referring to the dignity of labor. He moved a vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mayor Leitch, who had expressed his warm appreciation of the lecture to which he had listened, and his sympathy with the teacher.

On the morning of the second day Mr. Bisset illustrated the method of teaching drawing. He referred to the usefulness of the art in manufactures, architecture, &c. He explained the different kinds of lines, figures, &c. Showed how to form many designs from a square, and gave a dictation exercise on the subject.

Mr. Johnston, instead of his addresses on elocution, treated the convention to a humorous reading most effectively rendered and loudly applauded.

Another lecture from Mr. McCabe on "English Language and English Literature in School" furnished the teachers with many practical hints as to the best method of presenting this subject to their pupils.

The "Question Drawer" containing some important queries was then disposed of in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. McEwen illustrated his method of teaching simple and compound subtraction in a very clear and concise manner.

Mr. A. E. Relyea gave an eloquent and elaborate address on "Canada, its Position and Prospects."

Officers elected for the ensuing year: A. McNaughton, I. P. S., President; Miss Martin, Vice-President; Geo. Bigelow, Secy-Treas.; Managing Committee, Messrs. Keating, Baker, Cook, and Misses Carpenter and Helmer. The especial thanks of the Association were tendered to Mr. McCabe, also to all others who had assisted in the work. GEO. BIGELOW.

Literary Reviews.

BLACKIE'S DRAWING COPIES. Published by Blackie & Sons London, Glasgow, &c. We have received a copy of Blackie's Drawing Copies for junior classes as used in Britain. As this subject of drawing is now of so much importance in our schools, we would confidently recommend an inspection of them, to those of our Public School Teachers who feel that the authorized series in use does not furnish enough variety to their pupils—these copies will supply this want, and enable them readily to give a change to their blackboard lessons. These examples are most distinctly outlined in firm black lines, and many of the copies are well-shaded, giving an idea to the pupils of this branch of the drawing art—still the copies are so arranged that they can be used without the shading. Another feature is the use of the ruler in preliminary copies, thus accustoming the children to accuracy in their work before allowing them to attempt freehand work. The great variety of geometrical forms with their names attached, furnishes an easy introduction to this branch of drawing. After a careful examination, we find many points of great value to those requiring such assistance in their work, as furnished in them. A series of large demonstration cards, giving the pictures in a much larger scale for exhibition to the class, provides a ready means of explanation should the time of the teacher be otherwise employed.

SOUTHNEY'S LIFE OF NELSON.—Edited by W. E. Mullins, M.A. One of the series of English Classics published by Livingston, Waterloo Place, London, Eng.; pp. 280; price 2s. 6d. Southney's "Life of Nelson" has been styled a model biography. On its first appearance in 1813 it sprang at once into general favor, and it has maintained its popularity to the present time. Originally written, as its author asserts, as "a manual for the young sailor, which he may carry about with him till he has treasured up the example in his memory and in his heart," it has for the student of English literature at the present time the additional recommendation that its style is a model of clearness, smoothness, simplicity, and polish rarely surpassed. It is remarkable for its careful arrangement of facts, and for its conciseness, all unimportant and extraneous matter having been carefully excluded in order to bring it within the compass of a "manual." Being a eulogy, the faults and follies of the great man, and they were not few, have been touched upon lightly. The present edition has for frontispiece as accurate an engraving of Nelson's flagship, the "Victory," as can be ascertained, and has with it a key containing reference to 178 parts of the ship. There are seven illustrations, and a moderate number of foot-notes, so that altogether the book, in its present form, is convenient for the student, and will no doubt be in request.