

## SCIENCE AGAINST NATURE.

Shortly after the morning's train from St. Augustine left Durbin's station, about sixteen miles from this city, a noble buck with magnificent antlers sprang up from a thicket near the track and darted off at superb speed down the rails in front of the engine. Engineer Pebbles put on steam, and the iron horse responding gallantly started in hot pursuit, while the passengers from the window watched the unusual and exciting spectacle with eager interest. Steam and science however, soon told upon the wild grace and strength of nature, and the big pulling engine gained upon the panting buck. Finally, when only about fifty yards separated the two, the engineer secured a pistol from a passenger, and, taking his station upon the cow catcher, prepared for a fatal shot as soon as the distance should be reduced sufficiently. At this point the interest was intense, and the spectacle most exciting, until, with a sudden burst of instinct, the noble animal bounded from the track, and was soon lost in the forest on the left.—*Florida Herald*.

"John, what is the best thing to feed a parrot on?" asked an elderly lady of her bachelor brother. "Arsenic," gruffly answered John.

## Teachers' Associations.

**NORTH YORK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.**—This Association met in Newmarket on the 22nd and 23rd of January. After preliminary exercises, Mr. Rannie read a paper on "Composition, and How to Teach it." The conclusions reached were: that the teacher should, in conversation with his pupils, draw out ideas to be afterwards reproduced in writing; that he should insist on exactness in reproduction of ideas, or the facts of a story, but in the pupil's own language; that care should be taken to secure completeness and accuracy of expression in answering questions and in all class exercises; that letter writing and ordinary business forms should be taught, commencing with the second class; and that time and care should be given to the correction of all exercises in composition. A telegram from Dr. McLellan announced his inability to be present.

In the afternoon Miss Spragge, of Richmond Hill, read a thoughtful paper on "Geography as Taught to a Third Class." Miss S. would begin with the geography, physical and political, of the locality and neighbourhood, and pass to the township and county; would make pupils familiar with form of government, products, imports, industries, railroads, and water highways of their own country; extend this to province, continent, and the world. Emphasis was laid on map-sketching as useful in training the hand and making the pupil familiar with locality. A lively discussion ensued. The uniform promotion programme was discussed until 5 p.m., and ordered to be printed as amended for early distribution. A discussion on periodicals followed. It was finally decided that every member of the Association whose fees were paid up should be entitled to a bonus of 40 cents on the club rate of any educational periodical taken by the Association. Fifty-six copies of *SCHOOL JOURNAL* and *Educational Weekly* were subscribed for.

In the evening Mr. J. E. Dickson, B.A., 1st vice-president, occupied the chair. Miss Reader recited a country legend. The subject of township boards was discussed by Mr. Fotheringham and others. Some of the advantages claimed for the system were: the equalizing of school taxation, which now varies in one township of North York from 1½ to 9 mills on the dollar; equalizing educational advantages; reducing the number of school officials and increasing their efficiency; enabling children to attend nearest school; settling school boundaries; making the teacher's position more permanent, and giving poor sections better teachers. Some disadvantages were also pointed out, but it was claimed that on the whole the change would be for the better. Mr. Martin read "The Bashful Man," after which "hat speeches" were in order, Mr. Beaton discussing "Moral Suasion," Miss Spragge "Girls Contrasted with Boys," Mr. Price "The Rod, and How to Use it," and Mr. Rannie "Teaching as a Profession." "Primitive Teaching" was handled by Messrs. Fotheringham and Willson, and "Stimulants Used in Preparing Pupils for Entrance Examinations" by Mr. Basingthwaite, who also gave a reading, "King Robert of Sicily." Mr. Kennedy, of the *CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL*, gave a recitation, "Papa's Letter."

On the second day Mr. Price opened the discussion on "How Best to Divide the Time in Ungraded Schools." This brought out a discussion on the use of monitors. The general opinion was that these might be profitably employed to drill but not to teach. Mr. J. E. Hollings-

head presented Calisthenics, claiming as some of its benefits:—that it (1) Promotes orderly movements; (2) Controls pupils; (3) Helps discipline; (4) Rests pupils; (5) Prevents laziness; (6) Is physically beneficial; (7) Freshens pupils; (8) Recommended by Educational Department; (9) By its songs puts pupils in good humor and maintains a kindly feeling; (10) Prevents pupils from becoming *bored* too soon. The prejudices of pupils in country schools place it at a disadvantage. A class of teachers was formed, and several of the movements practiced. Mr. McKee, Inspector of Schools, South Simcoe, addressed the convention, urging the teachers to keep abreast of the times by attending conventions, taking school journals, and reading educational works.

On re-assembling at 1.30 p.m., Mr. Martin introduced First Class work in general, showing the teachers the advantages of having first class certificates in giving them better positions, better salaries, and the satisfaction of increased attainments. The officers for the year were then appointed:—President, Mr. D. Fotheringham, P.S.I.; vice-president, Mr. J. E. Dickson, B.A.; secretary-treasurer, Mr. W. Rannie; librarian, Miss Jennie Ross; Executive Committee—Messrs. Price, Macpherson, Willson, Sangster, and Martin; auditors, Mr. Terry and Miss J. Ross; delegate to Provincial Association, Mr. W. Rannie. Mr. Dickson led in a drill on words frequently mis-pronounced. This was decidedly interesting, and was taken part in by all present. Mr. Fotheringham gave interesting statistics in reference to education in the county of York during the last thirteen years.

More than 80 teachers were present during the convention. Although the thermometer stood 20° below zero on Thursday morning, over 60 teachers were present at the first session; some of these coming from Pefferlaw and Sutton on the one hand, and Kleinburg, Richmond Hill, and Stouffville on the other. The spirit throughout was thoughtful and earnest. The unavoidable absence of Dr. McLellan was much regretted, but it led the teachers to depend more upon themselves.

The programme for next meeting, to take place in October, is as follows:—Algebraic Factoring, J. R. Graham; How to Teach History, J. A. Sangster; Bible Lessons in Schools, W. Rannie; Penmanship, J. Bradshaw; Map-Drawing and Outlining, A. Wilkinson; The Various Uses of "But" and "As", Mr. Rudditt; First Lesson in Redaction, A. L. Campbell; Simple Interest to Beginners, R. R. Watson; Chemistry—Some Experiments and Solution of Chemical Equations, Jno. McBride; Object Lesson, Miss Watson; First Class Taught by Phonic Method, Miss Lizzie Ross; "Case," Miss Jennie Ross; Analysis and Parsing of Difficult Words and Phrases in a Set Lesson, J. E. Hollingshead; Discipline: How to Obtain and Retain it, J. Byron Oliver; The Study of Physics, and how it may be made the subject of interesting talks with young children, J. E. Dickson, B.A.. Readings, Music—vocal and instrumental.

## Literary Review.

**NORMAL LANGUAGE LESSONS** Sornburger, CALISTHENICS AND DISCIPLINARY EXERCISES, De Groff. C. W. Bardeen, Publisher, Syracuse, N. Y. These little books belong to the "School Bulletin Publications." The principle on which the Language Lessons are professedly based, are that the sentence or proposition is the unit of language, and should be studied before the elements or words comprising the unit. The Calisthenics contains a series of exercises intended for teachers who have learned no system, by whom it will be found a very useful little manual.

The following is the table of Contents of Littell's Living Age, for last week. I. THE REVOLUTION OF 1834.—*Fortnightly Review*. II. A MILLIONAIRE'S COUSIN.—*McMillan's Magazine*. III. CHARLES DICKENS AT HOME.—*Cornhill Magazine*. IV. THE SAVAGE.—*Nineteenth Century*. V. A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF, By Mrs. Oliphant, Part II.—*Chamber's Journal*. VI. MALTA AND ITS KNIGHTS.—*Blackwood's Magazine*. VII. OUTLYING PROFESSIONS.—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

**PERICULAR MANUAL OF ENGLISH LITERATURE**, by Maude Gillette Phillips. Harper & Brothers, New York. This work in two volumes of nearly 600 pages each, is one of the most complete of the kind we have yet seen. It contains outlines of the literature of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United States of America, with historical, scientific and art notes. From the cursory examination we have been able to give it we should say the ambitious design is well executed, and the work a most valuable one for each of the three practical ends it is designed to serve; viz, as a School Manual, as a guide to the General Reader, and as a book of Reference. Amongst other excellent features, we note the coloured tables or maps of the different ages into which the History of English Literature is classified, and the introduction of "Famous Quotations" from each celebrated author, and brief extracts from criticisms upon each by renowned critics. The list of Books of reference appended to each chapter will also be of service to Students and teachers.