

facts is certainly not scientific teaching. Similarly with that high-sounding and much belauded subject Hygiene. To me it is laughable to hear a little child pronounce the word. Nothing can surpass in importance the great questions of air, food and cleanliness, in relation to the organs of the body—the lungs, the stomach and the skin. All this, however, can come under the head of useful knowledge. As a recent writer has said “excessive prescription and definition of duty are the refuge of helplessness and pedantry. The more minutely the subjects of school work are delineated, the less copiously and effectually will pupils be taught.” The current and almost universal subjects of reading, writing, arithmetic, political and physical geography, history, grammar, dictation, are in themselves all but sufficient as staple courses, and when we open the door to physiology and hygiene, under distinctive labels, we must not forget that botany, astronomy and political economy, geology, mineralogy, every department of physics, agricultural chemistry, natural history, technology and perhaps phrenology, have still to be reckoned with. Do we want to run the risk of being laughed at as pretentious quacks who would deceive people into believing that a universality of knowledge is still possible to mankind, and that it may be acquired even in the elementary school?

(to be continued.)

THE SOUTHERN JOURNEY OF THE BIRDS.

By GEORGE E. ATKINSON.

The semi-annual excursions have now begun upon the great avian highways. Already Dame Nature has distributed her first advertisements throughout the country, intimating that the moving season is at hand and that those who wish may “go early and avoid the rush.” Every bird has read from the turning leaves, the seeded blossoms and the yellow posters of the grain fields that the summer resort season is drawing to a close. Already many have donned their sombre travelling dresses and move quietly about introducing their families among their neighbours, or discussing the necessary plans for and responsibilities of the journey. Already many having stop-over passes in the