

small agricultural and horticultural instruction merely to visit the school with its surroundings. We are not surprised that the Seminary of Acacia Villa draws students from over the whole Province. No person knows better what a boy is and how to make a good-natured man of him than Principal Patterson.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

*The Acadian*, Wolfville, N. S., has, in its issue of September 2nd, a graphic description of a trip to the lakes forming the head waters of the Gaspereau River. The scientific allusions, which are full of interest, point to the facile pen of a Professor of Acadia College.

*The New Star*, Kentville, N. S., is having some fun at the expense of the provincial newspapers, which are solemnly reporting the discovery of a fossilized Indian foot ("even to the seams of the moccasin"), found in the carboniferous district of Hants County. It also regrets that the great Cape Breton carboniferous "alligator" has been blown to fragments by the profane blasters, leaving not enough dust to identify it.

*The Morning Herald*, Halifax, N. S., had a telegram from Pictou, August 23rd, repeating a rumor that a person who was miserable for some months was seized with a fit of vomiting, and ejected a live lizard two or three inches in length. And the story went the rounds of the press. We are in a position to state that the dimensions of the animal from which this rumor sprang was, when stretched, about five-sixteenths of an inch in length—a shade over a quarter of an inch—and that instead of being a lizard, it was probably the larva of *Musca Caesar*—the blue-bottle fly, or some allied species.

A correspondent in Queens County, N. B., writes to the REVIEW, stating that bears do not emerge from their winter quarters in the lean condition alleged in our text books (see McAdam's "Chemistry of Common Things"), but that they are fat, although they become lean a short time after being out. He cites the opinions of various bear hunters in York and Queens counties in proof of his assertion, and says that the tame bears owned by Mr. Hagerty at McAdam Junction actually became heavier during hibernation. Mr. Hagerty, in corroborating this statement says, however, that the term of hibernation was short, nine weeks, and that the bears are young and growing. He states his intention of letting them hibernate the coming winter, under more favorable conditions than last, and afterwards may have something bearing upon the subject to communicate.

The school children are excited over the discovery of a colony of *Halictus*, a burrowing bee. They burrow in thousands in a sand bank, going to a depth of from eight to twelve inches. The larvæ are found singly at the ends of these burrows, where they appear to be fed with pollen wax. It is probably *Halictus parallelus*, Say, and is a rather rare find.

Kentville, N. S., Sept. 5th.

In some of the schools the children are writing a description of the spinning of a cocoon by a caterpillar in the school-room. A most practical way of teaching English composition, and gaining knowledge and mental power at the same time.

Windsor, N. S., Sept. 1st.

A correspondent says: "To-day, 6th September, is very warm. I weighed a pan of ice at 9 a. m. and found it to be 4 pounds 6 ounces. Weighed it at 6 p. m. when the ice was nearly all converted to water, and found it to be 4 pounds 8 ounces. The weighing was accurate, and nothing visible was added to the contents of the pan. Account for the increase of weight." We leave it for our students of physics.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

*The Herald*, Toronto, July, republishes a portion of Principal MacKay's paper before the Nova Scotia Educational Association, 1885. It says, "A translation into French appeared in *Bulletin Mensuel*, for February. A Swedish translation has more recently appeared in *Nystaren*, which is the organ of the Swedish S. R. A."

D. C. HEATH & Co. have just published the following books, of especial interest to educators: Notes on the Early Training of Children. By Mrs. Frank Malleson. Third edition. A book for mothers and kindergartners. The English Language; its Grammar, History, and Literature. By Professor J. M. D. Meiklejohn, of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Meissner's German Grammar. Revised and rewritten by Professor Edward S. Joynes, of South Carolina College. Practical Lessons in the use of English. For Primary schools. By Mary F. Hyde, of the Normal school, Albany, N. Y. Industrial Instruction. By Robert Seidel. Translated by Margaret K. Smith, of the Oswego, N. Y., Normal school.

#### BOOKS AND EXCHANGES.

HOW TO TEACH NATURAL SCIENCE: This is No. XI. of the "School-room Classics" series, published by C. W. Bardeen, Syracuse, New York, at 15 cents each. Wm. T. Harris, LL.D., formerly Superintendent of Public Schools, St. Louis, Mo., is the author. It is a plan of study designed for these very progressive American schools, and has received considerable attention from the leading educationists of America, being made the basis of the report of the committee on Physics Teaching, presented at the meeting of the National Educational Association, Chicago, 1887.

KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY DRAWING COURSE: We have just seen Parts I. and II. of this course, which is published by Selby & Co., 33 Scott street, Toronto. It has been authorized by the Minister of Education for Ontario. We wish our leading educationists would examine this course without delay. We believe that they would unanimously recommend it, or something of the kind, in our primary schools. The copies are ruled in squares, and de-