

Children's Answers.

A correspondent who sometimes makes a note of the answers made by children sends the REVIEW a few specimens. Some are very suggestive—to the teacher.

TEACHER—Where does birch grow?

SCHOLAR—In the West Indies. [The boy is sent to his seat to learn his lesson—to learn where birch grows. He was not asked if he had ever seen a birch. There was a pile of birch stove wood at the school house door, birch bushes near the house, a pile of birch wood at his own dwelling which he had helped to get the day before. Shades of Pestalozzi! the rote system is not dead].

TEACHER—How does the beaver cut the tree so as to make it fall into the river?

ANSWERS—He makes it fall in to the river. He cuts it with his teeth. He cuts it on one side. He cuts it on the side next the river. [I thought I was wondrous wise on this question, but some one who professes to know tells me that the beaver cuts the tree round regularly—takes off chips after cutting two grooves. I should think that the beaver does not want the tree to fall into the river; he wants to cut it into blocks about four feet long and this he can do better on land than in the water.

Another error in natural history, if the above is one, is in First Lesson, II. Book: "The spider in the picture has just got his web done and there he sits in the very middle of it ready to pounce upon a fly." The spider is wary, he knows that he is in danger of being pounced upon, so he has his den underneath his web or in the corner; and they say he holds a telegraph thread in his mouth. I have seen many webs but have never seen a spider on it watching, but I have touched the web and out came the spider. I have noticed the fine threads of the structure directed into the den. The spider is so wary that he gives the fly a hitch or two after it is entangled and then retires, returns again and again and repeats the operation until the fly is fully tucked in, and then carries it into his "little parlour."]

TEACHER—Give some proof that the world is round?

SCHOLAR—Because the globe is round. [Is not this better than "for these reasons?"]

TEACHER—Are we Jews? No. Are we Gentiles? No. What then? Protestants.

Here is a scholar's question which is a perfectly fair one to teachers who read between the lines, "The Corporal was thunderstruck,—it was Washington."

SCHOLAR—Please was he hurt? Did the thunder hit him?

Recently in China a man who killed his father was executed, and along with him his schoolmaster for not having taught him better

The Heavens in February.

Venus is morning star until the 15th, after which it will be evening star, but too near the sun to be seen for several weeks. Who will be the first to note its appearance in the west and report to the REVIEW.

Mercury and Mars are in the morning sky, but too near the sun for observation.

Jupiter is a conspicuous object in the eastern sky late in the evening, rising about 9 p. m. on February 15th. Later in the evening, when well up in the sky, it is in a good position for contrast with Sirius in the southwest. Turn an ordinary opera glass on the two and observe the yellow disc of the one and the sparkling bluish rays of the others. They present well the difference between a planet and a fixed star. The belted Orion in the southern sky in the early evening is in a fine position for observation.

Saturn rises about two o'clock on the morning of the 15th, and may be seen by early risers a few degrees northeast of Antares, a red star of the first magnitude—another good opportunity to contrast planet and fixed star.

A Chat with Correspondents.

The REVIEW does not, as a rule, pay attention to anonymous communications. There may be obvious reasons why a teacher does not wish, in ventilating a grievance, to write over his own name, but he should have faith enough in the editor to give his name in confidence. This is only courteous.

Very often it is puzzling to know the sex of a writer, from the signature. If X. Y. Smith writes to the REVIEW, we are anxious, in acknowledgment, to prefix "Mr." or "Miss" to the address in reply. But it is not always safe to rely on chirography as a guide, and we would suggest that unmarried ladies write the first given name rather than an initial in sending their address to the REVIEW.

A CORRESPONDENT doubts the propriety of boxing the ears of pupils and calling such names as "you little fool" and "stupid ass" and others of that nature. So do we. If this should meet the eye of any one who resorts to such methods we would say, read what is said about "millstones" and "offences to little ones." Only a very thoughtless person or a time-server makes use of such practices. And there are other practices but little better—standing pupils in the corner of the room, sending them into the hall, keeping them after school as a punishment for unbecoming conduct. Such methods are unworthy the dignity of a teacher. They do not command obedience and respect. Think seriously of