

rana he saw a very remarkable bird called the Scissor-beak (*Rhynchops nigra*). It is about the size of a tern, has short legs, web feet, and very long pointed wings; but the peculiarity about it is its beak. This is very much flattened laterally, and is quite elastic, and, unlike any other bird, the lower mandible is about an inch and a-half longer than the upper. They fly generally in small flocks rapidly backwards and forwards near the surface of the water, keeping their bills wide open, and ploughing the water with the lower mandible. In this way

they plough up small fish and secure them between the blades of their scissor-like beaks. Occasionally they leave the surface of the water, and then their flight is wild and irregular, and they utter loud harsh cries. These curious birds are quite common along the course of the Parana, remaining there all the year round, and breeding in the marshes. Their fishing is done at night, and during the day they rest in flocks on the grassy plains at a little distance from the water.

*(To be continued.)*

How many teachers ever show or tell their pupils how to study? This is very important. Weeks and months are often wasted even by older pupils, because they do not have a definite idea of, or a systematic plan for, studying.

THE question of the overwork of pupils has found its way into the English Parliament. The pay which the teacher receives depends largely upon the number of pupils he is able to pass to the grade above. It has led, of course, to a great amount of cramming, to long hours of study, and even recesses have been given up in order that more time might be gained for recitation or study. The result has been, as one of the Lords puts it, "to overstrain the teachers, and to make

the pupils slaves to enable the teachers to acquire an income." One of the leading journals of education in that country, treating this topic, says, "Individual examination and payment by results are among the curses of the time. They are sowing misery among teachers, and diseases among children. They are turning the hairs of young men gray, and shattering the nervous system of young women who would otherwise be healthy and strong." Are not some of our towns and cities sinners in the same direction? To be sure, no teacher's salary depends upon the number of children sent forward from her room, but the results of "individual examinations" very often determine her rank in the regards of committeemen.—*Boston Journal of Education.*