

EDITORIAL NOTES.

INSPECTOR GUNN says: "At no time in our educational history has there been more interest manifested in popular education, than during the present year."

Will those who receive copies of this issue, and who may not be sufficiently interested in its contents to subscribe, kindly hand it to others who may become subscribers.

PROVINCIAL examiners must note that Nova Scotia is moving in the direction of reform in English spelling. The Council of Public Instruction prescribes "Gage's Physics," which shortens such old forms as "height" to "hight"—one step in the direction of the universally longed-for orthographical millennium.

In sending out such a large issue—5,000 copies—of the first number of the REVIEW, some omissions and mis-directions are unavoidable. If those who receive the paper hear of such omissions, by which persons interested have not received it, they will kindly inform us so that a copy may be sent without delay.

WE UNDERSTAND that on account of the Queen's jubilee celebration in Halifax, the contemplated exhibition is postponed to next year. Principal H. S. Congdon, of the Dartmouth schools, has been the presiding genius in these movements. His intelligence and energy are bringing Dartmouth prominently to the front in educational reform.

WE are glad to announce that arrangements are being made by the Secretary of the N. B. Educational Institute to secure *free return* tickets up to and including July 6th. Members travelling by the N. and Western Railway or by any division of the N. B. Railway must purchase Society return tickets which will be sold at the principal stations. Without these, certificates of attendance will be useless.

INSPECTOR MACDONALD of Antigonish says: "The change made in the 'Trustee's Return,' adapting it to the course of study, is a step from which I expect the very best results." So say we all. The administration of educational affairs in Nova Scotia has of late years been very felicitous. No catastrophic elimination of defects has overturned the old world. But there is the steady noiseless evolution of a new cosmos, which painlessly absorbs the imperfections of the old.

OF OUR teachers, Inspector Roscoe says: "They are becoming alive to the fact that new modes and improvements are being introduced at a rapid rate; and to keep in line with the best and surest methods of

accomplishing this important work committed to their charge they must examine and use these methods as far as practicable in the schools they are teaching. The Provincial Normal School leads in these improvements, and to it must we look as a beacon light to guide us in matters so important."

INSPECTOR H. CONDON, of Halifax County, in his annual report, says of Dartmouth: "The industrial exhibition, held in the Christmas holidays of last year (1885), was a great success, and more than fulfilled the anticipations of its promoters. As a consequence, preparations are already being made for a Provincial industrial exhibition, to be held in Dartmouth the ensuing August. Those interested expect that a valuable impulse will be given to the cause of education throughout the Province. Special efforts will be made to draw the attention of the public to the merits of kindergarten system, and, among the attractions offered, classes will be conducted in which Froebel's principles will be practically illustrated."

J. H. MURRAY, LL. D., formerly President of the Philological Society of Great Britain, who is now editing the new historical dictionary of the English language—the greatest philological work of the age, is a spelling reformer. He says: "The question of etymology was long ago settled and done with by philologists. It is pitiful to see the expressions of Archbishop Trench, uttered just a quarter of a century ago, when English philology was in its pre-scientific babyhood, and scarcely anything was known of our language in its earlier stages save the outward forms in which it had come down to us in manuscript or print, quoted against the rational reconstruction of our spelling. But it is also unfair to Dr. Trench himself, who then stood so well in the front of philology, that we may be perfectly sure, that, if leisure had been given him to keep pace with the progress of the science, he would now have been second to no one as a spelling reformer. For philology has long since penetrated the mere drapery and grappled with 'the study of words,' not as *dead marks*, but as living realities, and for these living realities it first of all demands, 'write them as they are; give us facts and not fictions to handle.'"

A LITTLE boy at a village school had written the word "psalm" in his copybook, and accidentally blotted out the initial "p" with his sleeve. His little sister sitting at his side burst into tears over the disaster, but the spelling reformer defiantly exclaimed: "What if I did leave him out? He didn't spell nothing, and what was the good of him?"