

NORTH HASTINGS.—The Teachers' Association met at Stirling on Dec. 13th. The morning session was occupied by the President, Mr. Wm. Mackintosh, P. S. I., in explaining the way to use the new registers issued by the Department. In the afternoon Mr. Swayze, writing master of the Belleville public schools, explained his method of teaching writing. He recommended the teaching of elements and principles from the very first. He analyzed the small and capital letters, giving the order in which he would teach them. He gave many valuable hints on awakening and keeping the interest of the pupils. A discussion followed in which the opinions advanced by Mr. Swayze were concurred in by those who had tried the analytical method. Mr. Swayze received a hearty vote of thanks for the able and instructive manner with which for two hours he discussed the subject. Mr. Curtis next explained the method of keeping a class register, used at the Madoc Model School, and the form of report of the pupil's progress sent to the parent.

ONTARIO.—The first meeting of the County of Ontario Teachers' Association was held in the High School buildings, Whitby, on Friday and Saturday, the 6th and 7th Dec. Notwithstanding the badness of the roads there was a large representation of teachers from all parts of the county. Great interest was manifested throughout, owing chiefly to the presence of Mr. J. M. Buchan, M. A., H.S.I., and Mr. R. Lewis, Elocutionist, and Head Master of Dufferin School, Toronto.

The following officers were elected: *President*, Mr. James McBrien, P. S. I.; *Vice President*, Mr. G. H. Robinson, M. A., Head Master H. School, Whitby; *Sec.-Treas.*, James Brown, Head Master of Whitby Model School; *Managing Committee*, Mr. W. W. Tambllyn, M. A.; Mr. D. McBride, M. A.; Mr. John Clarke, Mr. D. Jennings, and Miss A. Hickie.

Programme of work done: "Penmanship," by James Brown, Whitby; "How to teach Decimal Fractions," by James Millar, Oshawa; "How to teach History to a class preparing for the High School," by James A. Youmans, Oshawa; "English Grammar," by J. M. Buchan, M. A., H. S. Inspector; "How to Read, etc.," by Mr. Lewis; "Public School Teachers' Certificates," by Mr. W. W. Tambllyn, M. A., Head Master of Oshawa High School; "English Literature," by Mr. J. M. Buchan, M. A., H.S.I. On Friday evening Mr. Buchan delivered a lecture on "Poetry and Politics" to a very appreciative audience. The next meeting of the Association is to be held in Port Perry next May, when even a larger attendance and greater interest may be expected.

EAST GREY.—The semi-annual meeting of the East Grey Teachers' Association was held in Thornbury on Thursday and Friday, the 12th and 13th inst. About sixty teachers were present. The following was the programme: 1. Reading of minutes. 2. Paper on Hydrostatics, by Mr. D. Honeywell. 3. Paper on "Order in Schools," by Mr. Malcolm McKinnon. 4. Analysis in Grammar and Arithmetic, by Mr. John Taito. 5. Solution of questions on 2nd class Philosophy paper for July examinations for 1878, by Mr. Wm. Irwin. 6. Paper on Fractions and Percentage, by Mr. R. Hamilton. 7. Essay on the "Moral Training of Children," by Miss Mary Lapp. The programme was very interesting, and elicited a great deal of useful criticism. On the evening of the first day, the President, Mr. A. Grier, delivered his address. There was also an entertainment given under the management of Mr. George Henderson. The Clarksburg brass band and glee club were in attendance.

Messrs. Taito, Evans, Lindsay, Irwin, Stephens, James, and Treadgold, read and recited. The Misses Goodfellow and Lapp read—the reading by these young ladies was very much admired.

The following are the officers for 1879: *President*, A. Grier; *Vice do.* G. Lindsay; *Secy.*, J. Farewell; *Treas.*, A. H. Stephens; *Committee of Management*, Messrs. Howgill, Stephens, Honeywell, McKinnon, Douglass, Treadgold, and Miss Mary Logan and Miss Georgina Lindsay.

Yours truly,

J. FAREWELL, Secretary.

Thornbury, Dec. 18th, 1878.

BOOK REVIEWS.

STEIGER'S EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORY. New York: E. Steiger. Paper, \$1.00; Cloth, \$1.50. Mr. Steiger publishes two annual volumes to accompany his magnificent work, the Cyclopædia of Education. The "Year Book of Education" for 1878 has already been reviewed in the JOURNAL. The Directory contains exhaustive lists of the educational institutions of the United States, British Dominions, Germany and Austria; and long lists of educational works and articles of interest to educators. It will be valuable to teachers, ministers, school authorities, &c.

THE REVISED SCHOOL LAW, PARTS I. & II., by J. George Hod-

gins, LL.D., Barrister-at-Law, Deputy Minister of Education for Ontario. Having had a share in preparing the School Law, and in framing the Regulations; and having spent over thirty-four years in administering and interpreting them, it is only natural that Dr. Hodgins should be better acquainted with them in all their relations to each other than any other man, excepting only the late Chief Superintendent, Dr. Ryerson. Part I. relates to the powers and duties of Public School Trustees in rural sections, and of Public School Teachers. Part II. covers the whole subject not discussed in Part I., and explains the powers of Township, City and Town School Boards, Municipal Councils, Inspectors, Boards of Examiners, etc.; and the Acts relating to Roman Catholic, Protestant and Coloured Separate Schools; Part II. also contains a complete index to the whole work. Nearly two hundred decisions of the Superior Courts, relating to school matters, are given. These constitute a very important part of the work, giving as they do the highest legal interpretation of portions of the law whose meaning may not be perfectly clear. The latest amendments to the law are included.

THE NORMAL READERS. Philadelphia: Porter & Coates. This series is prepared by Albert N. Raub, M.A., Principal of the Pennsylvania State Normal School. They do not profess to contain any "new departures" in the method of teaching reading. The first reader is so arranged that the *alphabet*, or *word* method, may be used. The book is not well adapted for the phonic method, although its author recommends that the *sounds* of the letters, as well as their *names*, be taught to the beginner. A good feature in the first and second books is the absence of unfamiliar words. The selections throughout are excellent and appropriate.

MAGAZINES.

ST. NICHOLAS. Messrs. Scribner & Co., in 1873, began the publication of *St. Nicholas*, an Illustrated Magazine for girls and boys, with Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge as Editor. Five years have passed since the first number was issued, and the magazine has won a position second to none. It has a monthly circulation of over 50,000 copies. It is published simultaneously in London and New York, and the transatlantic recognition is almost as general and hearty as the American. The New York *Tribune* has said of it: "St. Nicholas has reached a higher platform, and commands for its service wider resources in art and letters than any of its predecessors and contemporaries;" and the London *Literary World* has said: "There is no magazine for the young that can be said to equal this choice production of Scribner's press." The Christmas Number (issued December 15) contains contributions from John G. Whittier, Susan Coolidge, Charles Dudley Warner, the late Theo. Winthrop, Frank R. Stockton, Mrs. Burnett (author of "That Lass o' Lowries"), "Hezekiah Butterworth," Julian Hawthorne, Celia Thaxter, Olive Thorne, and many others.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. January, 1879. The following articles will be specially interesting to educators: "Americanisms," by Richard Grant White; "The Latest Songs of Chivalry," by Hamilton Preston, and "Recent Literature," by the Editor. Goldwin Smith writes on the question, "Is Universal Suffrage a Failure?" There are three short stories, one by Mrs. H. B. Stowe; four poems, by Whittier, Trowbridge, K. P. Osgood, and H. B. Spofford. "The Paris Exhibition," "Workingmen's Wives," and the Contributors' Club complete the number.

APPLETON'S JOURNAL, January, 1879. This number contains the first parts of two stories, "The Romance of a Painter," from the French of F. Fabre; and "A Man may not Marry his Grandmother," by H. E. Scudder. Both are very readable. The most valuable portions of the journal are "An Art Budget," "The Dietetic Use of Wines," "Petrarch," and Chrysanthema gathered from the Greek Anthology.

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY. The Messrs. Appleton have increased the size of this most valuable monthly to 144 pages. The following is the