

part of its surface may shine much more brightly than a similar area of the solar surface. If Arcturus shines no more brightly, surface for surface, than the sun, then it must be nearly as much larger than it in volume as it again is larger than the earth; that is, more than a millionfold. Such a star would fill the entire void of ninety-three millions of miles which intervenes between our earth and our sun. But without assigning to it any definite dimension, we may be quite confident that it is larger than the sun, very many times larger. It is not only the swiftest star of which we yet know, but, so far as our present information goes, it is also the largest; at once the Titan and the winged Mercury of the celestial orbs.

Does not all this give a new and marvellous meaning and force to the words the Creator addressed to the patriarch Job: "Canst thou guide Arcturus and his sons?" We cannot indeed be sure that the Hebrew word our translators have rendered "Arcturus" was intended to refer to that star, but could any interpretation be more appropriate? To Job the question doubtless seemed to mean: "Canst thou guide this or that star across the sky as it seems to traverse the heavens from its rising to its setting, night after night?" To us it sets forth one of the most stupendous examples of the Creator's power we

have as yet been able to recognize. "Canst thou, who cannot even change by a hair's breadth the course of the tiny globe on which thou dwellest, canst thou guide Arcturus, mightiest and swiftest of the stars, and distant from thee ten hundred millions of millions of miles?"

We cannot even guess the motive power which drives the giant star at such a speed. We recognize the compelling force urging our world along, and find it in the attraction of the sun. But gravitation can give us no clue whatsoever to the flight of Arcturus; we are baffled to account for it. We have no answer when we are asked concerning it, but one, but that is a sufficient one: "It is the will of God."

"Arcturus with his sons." Doubtless the giant star has a family not less suited to his size and dignity than are the planets of the solar system to its great ruler. Indeed, it may well be that Arcturus may possess as one of its dependents a star as glorious and as great in itself as our own sun. "Canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?" What answer can we give but that of the humbled and repentant patriarch: "Behold I am vile; what shall I answer Thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. I know that Thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from Thee."—*Sunday Magazine*.

"SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING."*

OF the purposes of an institute such as this and its meetings, some are obvious and practical, such as the following: To strengthen and encourage each other in a profession which, though profoundly interesting,

* An address delivered before the Nelson Educational Institute.

is at the same time irksome and trying beyond all others.

To compare and freely criticize ideas and methods in teaching which each may have formed as the result of solitary reflection or individual experience.

To form a collective body of opin-