

## Question Drawer.

A.H.N.—We are not aware that any one has published "Notes on Third Reader Literature." "Notes on Entrance" and on "Public School Leaving Literature" can be had from booksellers advertising in the EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL or from this office, prices 25 and 30 cents, respectively. Write to Education Department for circulars touching Entrance and Public School Leaving Examinations, which will answer several of your questions. "Clarkson's Problems in Arithmetic" is probably the book you have in mind in Question No. 7. This or any other book for teachers or pupils can be had at regular prices through the booksellers or from the office of THE EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL. Others of your rather formidable list of questions will be answered in next number.

INQUIRERS.—(1) If children of one township attend a school in another township, which school has a right to the Government grant? ANS.—The grant is divided among the municipalities on the basis of population.

(2) Can the trustees of the section in which the children reside demand from the other school the average attendance? ANS.—No.

(3) If it be impossible for the aforesaid children to attend the school in their own township, can the trustees in the other township prevent their going to the school in that township? ANS.—See section 172 of the Act.

(4) Have trustees the power to grant leave of absence to a teacher under special circumstances, as, for instance, to permit him to attend the funeral of a parent at a distance, necessitating the closing of the school for a week, without deducting from salary or requiring time made up? ANS.—The trustees have power in the matter.

(5) In the case of days kept as holidays by certain religious denominations, have the trustees, or a majority of them, power to make such days school holidays, without making a deduction from the teacher's salary? If not, should the amount so deducted bear the ratio to the whole salary which the number of days so used as holidays bears to the whole number of teaching days in the year? ANS.—The law makes no provision other than leaving the trustees the power to close the school for any purpose they may deem fit.

H.N.A.—Will you kindly answer the following questions, or tell me where I can get an answer? It is from the Entrance paper on Writing, 1894:

(a) Write the principles used in forming the capital letters.

(b) Write the small loop letters, and state how many spaces they extend.

(c) Show, by writing, the difference between the main and connective slant.

Will some teacher oblige us with answers to the above?

M.H.—(1) Is Agriculture required for Entrance examination?

(2) How would you teach geography to beginners where the school yard is not fenced and the country is all bush?

(3) How would you conduct an arithmetic match?

Agriculture is not compulsory. We shall be glad if some of our readers will answer Questions 2 and 3.

J.D.—Applications for admission to Normal School must be made on blank form, furnished on application by the Education Department, to be forwarded, when filled, by inspector. For other information asked, *re* books, School of Pedagogy, etc., write to the Education Department for circulars.

T.P.R.—We find nothing in the School Act or Departmental Regulations making it the duty of the inspector to notify

teachers of the date and place of institute or associational meetings. We should suppose that to be one of the Secretary's duties. Will some inspector or secretary please enlighten us?

## Literary Notes.

Prof. James Sully opens the *Popular Science Monthly* for February with one of his studies of childhood entitled, "First Attacks on the Mother Tongue." "A Day's Hunting among the Eskimos," by Fridtjof Nansen, follows. It is a vivid story of Greenland life. "The Serum Treatment of Diphtheria" is described by Dr. Samuel T. Armstrong, of the Contagious Disease Hospital, New York. An article on "The United States Geological Survey" is contributed by the new director, Mr. Charles D. Walcott. Under the title "Nature's Triumph," the way in which tropical vegetation resumes sway over an abandoned clearing is picturesquely described by Mr. James Rodway. Mr. Garrett P. Serviss continues his "Pleasures of the Telescope" series. M. Henri Coupin describes a series of experiments on "The Thorns of Plants." Certain tendencies and conditions of modern life are described by Prof. John W. Langley in an essay on "Some Material Forces of the Social Organism." Hon. G. Hilton Scribner discusses "Brain Development as related to Evolution." Helen Zimmern gives an account of a work on "Symbols" by a rising Italian anthropologist. Other articles are "Windmills and Meteorology," by P. J. De Ridder; and a sketch of an early student of American fishes, C. A. Le Sueur, contributed by President Jordan, of Stanford University. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Fifty cents a number; \$5 a year.

"The Progress of the World," in the *Review of Reviews* for February, commenting on the recent sudden change in the Presidency of the French Republic, suggests as a desirable improvement in the French system the separation of the legislative and executive departments of government. The editor of the *Review*, in the same department, discusses recent events in Hawaii and Japan, the condition of Armenia, the troubles in Newfoundland, and many other topics of world-wide interest. In the field of English politics, such subjects as the revenue returns, the London municipal elections, and the fortunes of the Liberal party are treated, while continental affairs of the day receive due consideration. On the American side, the editor presents a timely summary of the present condition of the national treasury, and demands that some means to secure revenue be devised by Congress before a plan of currency reform is permanently adopted; the changes in the composition of the Senate are noted, and State and municipal matters receive attention. Numerous portraits accompany the crisp editorial paragraphs of which "The Progress of the World" is made up.

Current numbers of *Littell's Living Age* comprise what is most notable in the great reviews and monthlies, such as Sidney Whitman's article on "Count Moltke, Field Marshal," Mrs. Alexander's "Recollections of James Anthony Froude," E. N. Buxton's interesting paper on "Stony Sinai," Prince Kropotkin's "Recent Science," etc., etc. The first number in February shows a delightful table of contents: "A Little Girl's Recollections of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, William Makepeace Thackeray, and the late Emperor Louis Napoleon," by Henriette Corkran; "The Queen and Lord

Beaconsfield," by Reginald B. Brett; "Treasure Islands in the Polar Sea," with Part III. of "The Crimea in 1854 and 1894," by General Sir Evelyn Wood, G.C.B., V.C., etc. The same issue contains also the first instalment of "The Closed Cabinet," a powerful short story which is concluded in the following number. Any reader desiring to be in touch with foreign periodical literature cannot do better than subscribe for this invaluable magazine. A prospectus with special offers to new subscribers may be obtained by addressing Littell & Co., Boston.

The *North American Review* for February opens with three timely articles on the currency question, which are bracketed together under the title of "The Financial Muddle." They are written by Secretary of Agriculture J. Sterling Morton, Representative William M. Springer, chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Currency, and Henry W. Cannon, president of the Chase National Bank of New York, and formerly Comptroller of the Currency. Ouida writes on "Literature and the English Book Trade." A paper on "Politics and the Farmer," by the Hon. B. P. Clayton, president of the Farmers' National Congress, next claims our attention. "The New Pulpit" forms the subject of a vigorous paper by the Rev. H. A. Haweis. Andrew Lang contributes some delightful "Recollections of Robert Louis Stevenson." In other articles Senator Orville H. Platt discusses the "Problems in the Indian Territory"; Prof. Simon Newcomb tells "Why we Need a National University"; H. H. Boyesen deals with "The Matrimonial Puzzle"; and Charles Sedgwick Minot writes on "The Psychical Comedy." The second instalment of the "Personal History of the Second Empire," by the author of "An Englishman in Paris," Albert D. Vandam, also appears in this number. Other topics treated are "Images in Dead Eyes," by Dr. Ellerslie Wallace; "The Cat in Law," by Gertrude B. Rolfe; "Newspaper Row and National Legislation," by Albert Halstead, Washington correspondent of the *Cincinnati Commercial Gazette*; and "How to Repel Train Robbers," by Lieut. J. T. Knight, U.S.A.

## Book Notices.

XENOPHON. SELECTIONS ILLUSTRATING GREEK LIFE. By C. H. Keene, M.A.

SALLUST. JUGURTHINE WAR. By E. P. Coleridge, B.A.

Two good additions to Macmillan's series of "Elementary Classics." Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co. The former would be an excellent little book to put into the hands of a young boy making his first attempt at translating connected passages.

MEISSNER'S LATIN PHRASE BOOK. Translated by H. W. Anden, from the sixth German edition, with additions. Macmillan's and the Copp, Clark Co.

Masters preparing boys for classical honors will find this a very valuable book. It will be of permanent service to the boys from the last year of preparatory work to the end of their college course.

CITIZENSHIP. By Julius H. Seelye, D.D., LL.D., late President of Amherst College. 78 pp. Boston: Ginn & Co.

This is truly an admirable little book. The first third of the book is given to a

sketch of International Law, its foundations and the conception of law in general. Then follows a luminous outline, beautiful in its terse and grave simplicity, of the public, private, and civil law of the United States. The call for such text-books in the United States is not that of "faddists." It is the nation's conviction that so important an element of public education can no longer be safely neglected. We need such a book in our own schools. President Seelye's little book has an independent value for all Canadians who desire an outline of the governmental system of our neighbor republic in small compass.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD. By Frederick Tracy, Ph.D. Second edition. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co.

Dr. Tracy has given us a thorough and honest piece of work, of the utmost value to all educationists. While he accurately sums up all that has yet been done in the field of infant psychology, his book is no mere compilation, but, as Dr. Stanley Hall justly remarks, a genuine and important contribution to our knowledge.

Dr. Tracy constructs his book upon a sound and highly important theory, "that mental phenomena undergo a process of transformation, in virtue of which, from being predominantly psychological, they become predominantly psychical." This law of transformation is, to our mind, conclusively established in his admirable chapter on volition. The section of this chapter devoted to "imitative movements" is peculiarly interesting, but only one of many passages which come home impressively to parents and teachers. In the concluding chapter on language, Dr. Tracy makes an independent contribution of great value and interest to science. In other portions of the book we feel at times that the author's desire for compression gives the authorities—often conflicting—which he quotes too great prominence, relatively, to his own opinion; in fine, that they should run as a commentary upon an independent work of much greater bulk. It is only to the author's credit that we feel the need of such a large work. But, in his last chapter, Dr. Tracy leaves his authorities behind, and makes the field entirely his own, justifying a claim to recognition in the scientific world as an original investigator of unusual power and great promise. The University of Toronto may be congratulated on this addition to her staff.

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