

THE excellent lessons on drawing which are appearing from month to month in the REVIEW have attracted the attention of our teachers to this subject. Prof. Dodge is doing a good work in leading teachers to substitute natural and more practical methods for the vague and characterless work attempted in too many of our schools under the name of drawing.

AMONG the subjects for papers and discussion at the next N. B. Provincial Teachers' Institute, which meets in St. John in June next, are the following: The Demand for a Broader and Higher Scholarship in Teachers; The Origin of Names of Places in New Brunswick, with Associations Connected with them; Practical Lessons on Physics and Botany; Woman's Influence in Education. The discussion of these subjects, with the public educational meeting and an evening spent with the Natural History Society, will make up a very excellent programme.

THE REVIEW and *Goldthwaite's Geographical Magazine*, one year for \$2.50.

THE Toronto *Educational Journal* published an excellent Christmas number. The steady and marked improvement in the appearance of the *Journal* during the past year, and its just and discriminating treatment of educational questions, are evidences of its increasing influence.

"CANADA'S Intellectual Strength and Weakness," was the subject of Hon. J. G. Bourinot's address as President of the Royal Society of Canada, in May last. It attracted considerable attention at the time as was to be expected, not only from Dr. Bourinot's reputation as a man of letters and writer on constitutional questions, but also from his position as president of the leading Canadian society of literature and science. Numerous additions have been made to the monograph in the shape of bibliographical and other literary notes, forming a ground-work, as the writer states, of a series of historical and other essays which will be regularly brought out in future under the auspices of the Royal Society.

In Dr. Bourinot's necessarily rapid but excellent review of the intellectual development of the Dominion, he sums up, hoping that "with the expansion of our mental horizon, with the growth of experience and knowledge, with the creation of a wider sympathy for native talent, with the disappearance of that tendency to self-depreciation which is so essentially colonial, and with the encouragement of more self-reliance and confidence in our own intellectual resources, we may look forward with some degree of hopefulness to conditions of higher development."

JUDGE FRASER has been appointed Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick in place of the late Lieut. Governor Boyd. The long experience in public life of Governor Fraser and his amiable character make the appointment a very popular one.

THE London (Ont.) *Advertiser* in a recent issue says:

"The Toronto School Board is this year engaged in an experiment which will be closely watched by other educational bodies. The trustees, on the suggestion of the Inspector, have decided to try a new system with a view to abolishing the method of promotion by examination. The system which it is proposed to substitute is that of monthly examinations, to be held by each teacher, who will thus be able to judge at the end of the term which pupils have the best average capacity, and promotions will be made wholly on this average. If the new system has the effect of doing away with grinding up for examinations, often little better than mechanical performances, and in establishing solid understandings in the youth, the change will be an improvement. The smartest answerer of catch questions is not always the most fully intellectually equipped."

A LIVE SOCIETY.

The N. B. Natural History Society is accomplishing an excellent work. Since its re-organization, about twelve years ago, it has published annual bulletins in which the progress of the Society and the work it has accomplished are recorded. Bulletin No. XI has just been issued, containing the following table of contents:—The Annual Address of the President; G. F. Matthew, M.A., F.R.S.C., on "The Climate of Acadia in the Earliest Times;" "Notes on the Geography and Natural History of the Tobique," by Geoffrey Stead, C. E.; "Observations on the Distribution and Habits of some New Brunswick Fishes, by Philip Cox, A. B., B. Sc. The latter is the most important contribution to the study of our fishes since the days of Moses Perley. It records several species new to the Province; and from Mr. Cox's industry and skill as a naturalist, much may be expected of him, to judge by what he has already accomplished in this important branch of our natural history. The botanical committee makes a very interesting report, giving the locality and discoverers of no less than thirty-seven species of plants new to the Province, found within the past three years.

The Society has undertaken within recent years, in addition to regular monthly lectures, courses of elementary lectures in science, with a view to attract to its lecture hall and museum the general public, and more especially the teachers and students of the public schools in St. John. The courses for the present winter embrace three lectures in each of the following subjects:—Palæontology, Bacteria, Birds, Plants.

Such a society is deserving of more extended recognition and support from the Government and people of the Province than it receives.