

edited by Mr. G. U. Hay, reverses the New England custom and deals with things practical. It tells something that people want to know. Instead of trying to teach people how to educate, it educates. It handles the subject and ignores the shadow. For these reasons the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW is a valuable addition to current literature and contains much matter that makes the paper worthy of preservation for future reference. —*Bangor Daily News.*

THE state superintendent for New York reports a remarkable increase of interest in the observance of Arbor Day. There has not only been a great increase in the work done on that day, but it has been followed by an increased pride in the appearance of school grounds, as well as in the interior of school buildings. A new impulse has been given to Nature study, and Junior Naturalists' Clubs have been organized in every direction. The College of Agriculture of Cornell University, which has largely assisted this movement, has answered sixteen thousand letters from children asking about the making of gardens, and over twenty thousand teachers have been in communication with the College in regard to Nature study in the schools. The result of this work can not be measured.

At a meeting of teachers and trustees, held in St. John recently, the idea of having a few schools devoted entirely to the service of backward and irregular pupils, was strongly advocated. In the larger cities especially, this plan could well be carried out and it has many features to commend it. It would remove from the schools many pupils that are an incubus, while it would afford these a better opportunity of being drilled upon work that they can not go forward with among pupils who have made average progress.

THE Ontario Educational Association of 1899 has been in interest and attendance the most successful that has yet been held. A committee has been appointed to consider the academic standing desirable for those who are entering the profession, and to report at the next meeting. Among the resolutions passed were: "That no teacher's certificate be granted to those under twenty-one years of age;" "That Latin be not compulsory for teachers' certificates;" "That reading at the entrance examination be not simultaneous with other subjects."

As Dominion Day falls on a Saturday this year, it will not be a school holiday in Nova Scotia. From the official correction of the April *Journal of Education*, published in another column, it will be seen that the

law determines the number of days in the last half of the school year to be 108, and the number of days in the whole school year 216, in the Province of Nova Scotia.

DR. MACKAY, Chief Superintendent of Education for the province of Nova Scotia, informs us that in the *Journal of Education* for April last a typographical error in the second line of page 55 has been puzzling some teachers. "July, 1899," should read "July, 1900." The October *Journal* contains the prescriptions on which the next July examinations will be held. The April *Journal* contains the prescriptions for the school year, beginning the following August, as usual.

Some Jottings by the Way.—I.

During the past winter and spring there have been a series of popular excursions from Boston to Washington which have proved very attractive to those wishing to visit the national capital, taking in New York and Philadelphia by the way, and in the depth of winter prolonging their journey to Florida, New Orleans, or St. Louis. The last of these excursions for this season was made from Boston on the 24th of April, and consisted of a party chiefly from that city and other portions of New England. The desire to escape for a few days from the chill east winds of the North Atlantic and meet the warmer breezes from the south, made me a willing partner in the excursion whose destination was Washington, with the privilege of a "stop-over" on the return at Philadelphia and New York. The party consisted of nearly two hundred persons, the majority of whom were ladies. It was a specially conducted party. There was a chaperon for the ladies, and a general manager whose duty it was to relieve the tourists from all cares incident to travel and give them the opportunity to enjoy to the fullest extent the pleasures of the journey.

A special train on the Pennsylvania railway carried us from New York to Philadelphia in a little less than two hours. Here a stop of five hours gave the party an opportunity to visit some of the principal objects of interest in that city. A run of three hours more brought us to Washington, with one stop of a few minutes at Baltimore. On this road there is a record for fast time. Our rate on some portions was a mile a minute, and at times even exceeded that. As we sped southward every mile brought into view new features of interest: Fruit trees in blossom and buds expanding into leaf, with other evidences of a newly awakened spring; broad expanses of fertile lands which made the country seem one great garden; great rivers widening into