

Several copies of the SCIENTIST have been sent to a number of the teachers of Nova Scotia, who have not yet favored us with their subscriptions. We have sent them trusting that those teachers would find our little journal of some worth; and we should like to continue doing so but the publication of the SCIENTIST is a somewhat *expensive* undertaking, and we are obliged to curtail our subscription list to paying subscribers.

Astronomy.

THE WINTER HEAVENS.

The heavens are now presenting a very brilliant appearance. In the early evening the beautiful planet Venus shines conspicuous in the western sky. At the same time in the eastern heavens may be seen Saturn and Jupiter, and later in the evening, Mars. Near Saturn is the bright star Aldebaran in Taurus. This star is in the angular group called the *Hyades*, situated a little south of the *Pleiades*.

South-east of these groups is the glorious constellation Orion, one of the most conspicuous objects in the winter sky. It is easily known by three bright stars of the 2nd magnitude in a straight line, equidistant and occupying three degrees of the heavens. These are the *belt* of Orion, but they are also called the three kings, and in Job the *Bands of Orion*. They are also called the ell or yard, and form a convenient unit for celestial measurement. In this constellation are two stars of the first magnitude, Betelgeux and Rigel. They are situated in a line at right angles to the belt, the former about 10 degrees north and the other about the same distance south. From the belt may be found Aldebaran and Sirius, the latter the brightest star in the heavens. To find the latter pass an imaginary line through the belt and

extend it about 20 degrees to the left or east and it will go a little above a very bright star, that is Sirius. If the same line be extended to the right or west it will at about the same distance pass above the conspicuous star Aldebaran mentioned before as being in the *Hyades*.

Directly east from Betelgeux at a distance of 26 degrees is Procyon. The three stars, Sirius, Procyon and Betelgeux form an equilateral triangle. At 23 degrees from Procyon in a northerly direction are two bright stars 6 degrees apart called Gemini or the Twins. These are Castor and Pollux, the latter being on the left.

NOTE.—In the ACADIAN SCIENTIST for April on page 5, first column, 18th line from the bottom, Arcturus is by mistake used for Aldebaran.

A. E. COLDWELL.

Botanical Department.

AMONG THE CRYPTOGRAMS.

Conducted by Prof. A. H. McKAY.

STICTA PULMONARIA.

NO. II.

Last month we made our acquaintance with the common and picturesque lichen *Usnea barbata*. This month we shall take another common lichen as a still further illustration of what a lichen is. On the bark of large hardwood trees, maple especially, we very usually find a large leafy form of vegetation of a greenish or olive colored hue, sometimes of nearly a dull lead colored brown. In England it is called the "Lungs of the Oak" on account of its great abundance on the rugged bark of that tree. It is generally known, however, as the "Tree Lungwort." Its botanical name is *Sticta Pulmonaria*. The name of the