

in parts not beyond the capabilities of the most advanced students in our own High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. The Selections are marked "easy," "moderately easy" and "difficult" and afford ample practice even for undergraduates. It is an excellent compilation, and will meet the requirements of classical teachers who must often have felt the need of such a book.

THE NORMAL MUSIC COURSE: by J. W. Tufts and H. E. Holt, adapted for use in the Canadian schools by S. H. Preston. First and Second Readers: Canada Publishing Co., Toronto.

THESE books which we briefly noticed last month, are found upon further enquiry to possess unusual merits and some novelties in music. The system is graded and eminently practical. The special features, however, are that they present the relative pitch of sounds to the ear as mental objects which are as distinctly named and known as numbers are to the eye. By this system the hindrance of beating time is avoided. The pupils are taught to think and feel time not beat it. The books have already received the warm approval of the highest musical authorities in the United States, and will no doubt be largely used in this country.

THE COMMONLY-OCCURRING WILD PLANTS OF CANADA, and more especially of the Province of Ontario. A Flora for the use of beginners: by H. B. Spotton, M.A., F.L.S. W. J. Gage & Co.: Toronto and Winnipeg. [1884.]

WE are glad to see such an attempt as the present made to supply the young Canadian botanist with an inexpensive handbook of the wild plants of his country. There is no science better adapted for pleasantly training the student in habits of observation, and in a love of the beautiful in nature than botany, and it has, we believe, as few drawbacks as can be found in the whole field of scientific study. In the search for plants we find health and instruction as well as specimens, and we have the further satisfaction of believing that our health and our instruction are not gained at the expense of a single

page to the objects of our search. With out particularizing the features of merit that must occur to every intelligent reader it will be sufficient to state, that Mr. Spotton's labours are characterized by simplicity and accuracy of treatment. He has evidently spent a great deal of labour on the whole book, but, especially upon the key. His efforts amid heavy professional duties to produce a trustworthy handbook, are creditable to himself, and bring honour to the whole profession, and should do much to foster the study of botany in our schools. That Mr. Spotton's little book will help on this study, there can be hardly any doubt. A subsequent edition might, however, we think, with advantage widen the scope so as to make it include not only the commonly-occurring, but also the rarer species, for even beginners often find rare specimens. We hope that Mr. Spotton's labours will receive the acknowledgment which they deserve.

A MANUAL OF GREEK VERBS with rules for the formation of tenses, and tables of verbs for practice: by F. Ritchie, M.A., and E. H. Moore, M.A. Rivingtons. London.

THE authors have made a successful attempt to arrange in a clear and consecutive order the laws which govern the inflexion of the Greek verb, to supply copious examples of their application, and to collect and group the chief instances of irregularity.

HISTORY TOPICS for the use of High Schools and Colleges: by William Francis Allen, A.M. Boston: Ginn, Heath & Co., 1883 [pp. 121, mailing price 25 cents.]

THE chief features of merit in this primer are the evidences of intelligent purpose, practical skill in teaching, a thorough grasp of the philosophy of history and a well defined plan. The ground covered is perhaps not exactly suited to the immediate wants of the student in Canadian schools, but even without the aid of the promised English History course, there is sufficient to render the book quite valuable to candidates for matriculation. The sixty pages of the bibliography of history, is at once the most scholarly and useful compendium that has yet appeared