

A reading, "Maiden Martyr of Scotland," was well rendered by Miss E. M. Thomson.

Alexander McLeod opened the discussion on Teachers' Union. He strongly condemned the underbidding and undermining practised by some teachers.

Mr. McClung considered teachers should do something to protect themselves against unprincipled men in and out of the profession, and should also aim at rendering situations more permanent and information respecting them more easily obtained. Positions are, he said, often secured and kept through political, religious, or social influences. Salaries are not always in proportion to work done.

S. D. Bradley had no faith in unions. Teachers were themselves to blame for losing situations. Some teachers were now paid more than they deserved. Good teachers were usually well treated.

Mr. Cameron considered Mr. McClung rather extreme in his remarks. Teachers usually held positions as long as they wanted them. Everything will be satisfactory when the people are properly educated.

Mr. Smith would like to hear from the young teachers; they were most interested in the matter.

Mr. Powell regretted that teachers are not always true to themselves and one another, but was afraid union would fail in making teachers honorable who are not so by nature. He also thought union would be of little avail in securing increase of salary. He had still some faith in the law of supply and demand. Mr. H. A. Stewart could not see that much could be done by forming a union. Underbidding could not be punished, nor could salaries be forced up except by natural causes. The Association adjourned at 5 p.m.

In the evening Dr. McLellan lectured in the A. O. F. hall to a fair-sized audience on "Influence of Education in National Life."

On Friday, Mr. R. Strothers read an essay on the late Dr. Ryerson. The salient points of the essay were the doctor's early education and difficulties with his father respecting religious matters; his management of the *Christian Guardian* his sympathy for the teachers; his comprehensive grasp of our educational system; and the liberal treatment he received from the Provincial Government during his declining years. The secretary read a circular showing that only \$4425.00 has yet been contributed to the Ryerson memorial fund, and that at least \$3000 more would be required. The Association authorized the secretary to receive all contributions toward the fund and forward them to the M. F. committee. All interested should send in their contributions as soon as possible. The object is a worthy one and appeals to the purest and loftiest instincts of our nature.

On the question of the proposed College of Preceptors, Mr. Powell said he had given the matter some attention, but did not fully comprehend it in all its bearings. The changes proposed were unquestionably radical in many respects. Principal Dickson's scheme was, however, only an outline and could be modified. He gave a short account of the history of the movement and dwelt upon the leading feature of the scheme, paying special attention to the advantages teachers would derive from the formation of the proposed college.

Mr. Freer favored the movement. Teachers should have more direct control of educational matters than they at present possessed. They wanted unity of action, increase of professional spirit and independence. Education should if possible be placed outside the influence of politics. Men of experience and independence should direct and control the examination of teachers.

Dr. McLellan considered the proposed changes too sweeping. They asked the government to surrender some of its most important functions. A college of preceptors would do much to improve the teachers' position and for the cause of education. But teachers must be contented with moderate concessions on the part of the Government.

Mr. McClung believed the move was in the right direction, and, though difficulties existed, urged upon the Association to declare in favor of the proposed college.

Mr. Powell moved, seconded by Mr. Freer, "That in the opinion of the teachers of West Bruce in convention assembled, it is desirable, for the purpose of promoting sound learning, and of advancing the cause of education, that a college of preceptors be established, based upon the principles and embracing the main features of the scheme outlined by Principal Dickson at the last annual meeting of the O. T.'s Association in Toronto.

The resolution was passed almost without opposition. Only two votes were cast against it.

Professor Jones sang: "Our Homes," and was tendered the thanks of the Association. He responded and sang, "Good-bye." The professor's singing was a very pleasing feature of the whole programme.

Miss Powell's pupils gave a short exhibition in drill and calisthenics. They acquitted themselves well and performed the exercises with military precision, although the eldest could not have been more than eight years of age.

S. D. Bradley gave an essay on "Home." The influences of home and its Associations were clearly indicated by well chosen illustrations. The mother's advice, the father's counsel, the sister's sympathy and the brother's encouragement, each received due attention and was made to play a part in the formation of character, and in the future destiny of the individual and the race.—Condensed from Report by F. C. Powell.

Literary Reviews.

LIGHT ON THE MYSTERIES OF NATURE AND THE BIBLE, in the form of **LETTERS TO OUR CHILDREN**. By J. A. Cunningham. Volume I. (*Cincinnati: Standard Publishing Company, 1886.*)

These letters, the author informs us, were written specially for the benefit of his own children in the course of twelve years during which his business kept him most of the time from home, but were also intended for the guidance, good, and government of all children. The letters are well conceived, excellent in spirit, and full of instruction. The language in which some of the scientific portions are couched seems to us rather beyond the range of the ordinary vocabulary of children, but this is, perhaps, unavoidable from the nature of the subject; and there is much that is within the comprehension of all, and can scarcely fail to interest all.

ARITHMETIC. By Charles Pendlebury, M.A., F.R.A.S., Senior Mathematical Master of St. Paul's School, formerly Scholar of St. John's College, Cambridge; author of "Lenses and Systems of Lenses, Treated after the Manner of Gauss." (*Cambridge: Deighton, Bell & Co. London: G. Bell & Sons.*)

This is a work of 460 pp., in which the author treats with such fulness as his limits allow "so much of the science of Arithmetic as is needful for school use and for the Civil Service and other examinations. The book follows mainly the English order and methods. Proportion and percentages are treated by the unitary method. Everything like an arbitrary rule is avoided. The examples of all kinds are very numerous, there being nearly 8,000 in all.

HAND-BOOK OF ZOOLOGY: With examples from Canadian Species, Recent and Fossil. By Sir J. William Dawson, LL.D., F.R.S., etc. Third Edition, Revised and Enlarged. (*Dawson Brothers, Publishers, Montreal, 1886.*)

The object of this manual, as explained by the distinguished author, is to furnish to students, collectors, and summer tourists in Canada, an outline of the classification of the Animal Kingdom, with examples taken, as far as possible, from species found in this country. Fossil animals are included as well as those which are recent, because many types not represented in our existing fauna, occur as fossils in our rock formations; and because one important use of the teaching of Zoology, is that it may be made subsidiary to geological research.

Directions for collecting and preparing specimens are appended. This work in the previous editions is, no doubt, too well known to make special reference to its merits necessary, even did not the high reputation of its author afford an ample guarantee of its excellence. The present edition is beautifully printed, the illustrations are numerous and first-class in character, and the flexible binding is substantial and extremely neat.

FIRST STEPS IN SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE. Complete in seven Parts:—1, Animals; 2, Plants; 3, Stones and Rocks; 4, Physics; 5, Chemistry; 6, Animal Physiology; 7, Vegetable Physiology. By Paul Best, Member of the Institute and ex-Minister of Public Instruction of France. Translation by Madame Paul Best. Revised and corrected by Wm. H. Greene, M.D., Professor of Chemistry in the Philadelphia Central High School (*J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.*)

The above transcript of the title-page is sufficient introduction to this valuable little work. The name of the author is sufficient guarantee for its scientific authority, the arrangement of its parts for the comprehensiveness of its plan. When we add that the style is simple and clear, and admirably adapted to the comprehension of the child of ordinary intelligence, and that illustrations abound on almost every page, we have said about all that needs to be said to convince our readers of the excellence of the book. We could wish a copy were in the hands of every child above the age of ten in the Public Schools. One should be on the table of every family where the parents desire their children to acquire a love of knowledge and to become intelligent members of society. Half a million copies were, we are told, sold in France within three years after its first appearance, and the second edition of the translation followed the first almost immediately in England. In the edition now before us the Natural History has been slightly enlarged by the introduction of several American species, omitted in the original and in the English edition, and a few inaccuracies concerning other species met with in the United States have been corrected.

STORIES OF GREEK HEROES BY NIEBUHR. Arranged as a **First Reading Book**, with Notes and Vocabulary, by A. R. Lechner, Senior Master of Modern Languages, Modern School, Bedford.

FRENCH POETRY FOR SCHOOLS. Edited by James Boielle, B.A. (Univ. Gall.) Senior French Master in Dulwich College and Examiner in French to the Intermediate Education Board, etc.

TRIPERTITA. (Second Series.) A course of easy Latin exercises for Preparatory Schools. Arranged to suit the threefold division of the year. By Frederick T. Holden, M.A., late of Emmanuel College, Cambridge Assistant Master at Cargilfield Preparatory School, Edinburgh.

The above little works, each of them neat and attractive in form and admirably adapted for their respective uses in preparatory classes, come to us from the prolific press of Rivington's, Waterloo Place, London.

HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE MEMORY; or, Natural and Scientific Methods of Never Forgetting. By M. L. Holbrook, M.D., Editor of "The Herald of Health," author of "Hygiene of the Brain," "Eating for Strength," "Fruit and Bread, etc." (*New York: M. Holbrook & Co.*)

This seems to be really a very suggestive and useful little book. It does not contain, as one might fear, one of the complicated systems of artificial mnemonics, but a series of simple and natural methods. They are all easy and adapted to every class of readers. Many of them have, no doubt, suggested themselves to most students, but even such will gain an additional advantage from having the principles stated in clear and simple language and with methodical arrangement.