

courses with much earnestness on what constitutes a successful life for men and women, and Addison b. Burk very thoroughly explains the methods employed in the building and loan plan—"When Buying a House with Rent Money." Much solid wisdom may be found in Burdette's inimitable "Through Two Ends of a Telescope." Mrs. Mallon contributes some charming suggestions for "Dainty House Gowns" and for "Little Girls' Gowns," and Miss Hooper speaks some wise words on "Dressing on a Small Income." *The Ladies' Home Journal*, with a circulation of 700,000 copies, is published by The Curtis Publishing Company, of Philadelphia, for ten cents per number and one dollar per year.

Book Notices, etc.

The Rhetoric Tablet, published by Ginn & Co., Boston, is a blank Tablet about ten inches by six, with margin for correction marks, which will be found a great convenience by teachers of composition. On the cover is an elaborate system of marks and abbreviations to be used in the correction of compositions.

**

Practical Lessons in Fractions by the Inductive Method. By Florence N. Sloane. D. C. Heath & Co., Boston; pp. 92, 40c.

This book will be useful in graded schools, especially to the teacher. It is designed to meet the wants of an average Third class. All who try the methods given will cease to consider arithmetic a dull, unpractical study.

**

Geometry for Grammar Schools By E. Hunt, LL.D. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.; pp. 100.

This is intended to carry on in the public school the geometrical knowledge acquired in the Kindergarten. We apprehend that it is too difficult for pupils under twelve years, and of great value to teachers over twenty who are groping after practical instruction in how to teach geometry.

**

National School Library of Song. No. 2. Ginn & Company, Boston; pp. 92.

An admirable collection of advanced solfeggios and four-part songs, in which compositions of great beauty by older masters such as Mendelssohn, Weber, are varied by selections from Smart, Barnby, Pinsuti, etc. The editor, Leo R. Lewis, has chosen as a critical musician would choose, yet has constantly kept in mind the capacity of students of Normal and High Schools for whom the selection is designed.

**

A SERIES of translations and reprints of original documents in the three fields of English History, Modern History of Continental Europe, and Medieval History, edited respectively by Prof. Edward C. Cheyney, Prof. James Harvey Robinson, and Mr. Dana C. Munro, is being issued by the Department of History of the University of Pennsylvania. As the study of original matter is the only satisfactory way of really understanding the history of any time or of any period, such a publication as this will be welcomed by all students of history, as in this way they will have access to materials which would be otherwise beyond the reach of most of them. The terms of sale are: Annual subscription, \$1.00; single numbers, 15 cents. Orders should be sent to Dana C. Munro, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

**

A NEW History of the United States has been published by Allen C. Thomas, A.M., Professor of History in Haverford College, Pennsylvania. Excellent maps and portraits, the characteristic of recent American text-books, and the lamentable non-characteristic of too many of our Canadian school books, add to the interest and attractiveness of the book. Good paper, and clear, large type, make another excellent feature of the work. The national story of the American people is well told, and the old-fashioned outlines of history, as a record of battles and sieges, and laws, is abandoned for the more sensible view which takes note not only of these things, but of the history of the nation's thought as well, and of its social, industrial and religious development and problems. (Boston, U. S. A.: Heath & Co., publishers. Price, \$1.25).

Graduate Courses. Boston: Mudge & Son; pp. 116; price 15 cents.

Under the auspices of the Harvard Graduate Club, and with the co-operation of other graduate clubs, the present volume has been compiled in a form to present clearly and compactly the graduate courses offered in the universities of the United States during the coming academic year. These courses are grouped according to subject, with the names of the universities and professors offering them, so that a perfect synopsis of the graduate work is given. One regrets keenly, in looking at the nineteen colleges and universities of the United States, offering graduate courses, that no Canadian university is represented. When even the University of Toronto offers no facilities for graduate work, one wonders at the stagnation of our boasted educational system.

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The Making of Virginia and the Middle Colonies. By Samuel Adams Drake; pp. 222, \$1.50 New York: Scribners.

The value of Mr. Drake's works, in giving spirit and interest to the bare outlines of school histories, it is hard to over-estimate. He is gifted with a keen appreciation of the vital points in historical characters and events, and seizing on them he, with a mass of illustrations of maps, plans, portraits, landscapes, presents them with a clearness and picturesqueness that make his books as interesting as a novel. The present volume deals with an interesting theme, the founding of Virginia, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, and recounts in a series of fascinating chapters the efforts of Raleigh, the Lords Calvert, Hudson and Penn, while the short-lived Dutch and Swedish colonies are not passed over. The volume possesses the truth that comes of wide acquaintance with historical documents at first hand, and the charm that arises from the appreciation of manly effort in the noble cause of founding new realms of civilization and prosperity on this continent. It should be welcomed into every school library.

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Arithmetic by Grades. Pupils' edition, 8 vols., 25c. each, averaging about 100 pp. each. *Teachers' Manual*, 225 pp., 90c. By Dr. John T. Prince: Ginn & Co., Boston.

If every public school teacher and his pupils had a set of these books, the following consequences would follow shortly: (a) The teaching of arithmetic would be stripped of more than half its drudgery. (b) Pupils would be compelled to work out independently their own answers, no results being given in the pupils' edition. (c) They would be encouraged by being able to master one volume each term and start with a new one the next term. (d) Much valuable time now wasted in dictating problems would be saved for actual study of the subject. (e) Many cases of injury to pupils' eyes by straining the sight to read from B.B. would be avoided. (f) Busy work would be simply provided for every spare moment of school time in ungraded schools. (g) A perfect *reductio ad absurdum* proof of the unfitness of the Ontario Public School Arithmetic would be given which the Education Department would soon be compelled to recognize as valid. We have no doubt that every Secretary of a Teachers' Institute would receive a set of these books on application to the publishers. The Manual is a good book and a friend to every primary teacher.

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We have received from the publishers, D. C. Heath & Company, Boston, a complete set of Thompson's Rhetorical and Industrial Drawing. Professor Thompson is an able student and teacher of this subject, and his series of text-books is the most elaborate and complete we have ever seen. The entire system consists of the following series of Drawing Books and Manuals: 1. The Manual Training Series: Two manuals. 2. The Primary Freehand Series: Four drawing-books and manual. 3. The Advanced Freehand Series: Four drawing-books and manual. 4. The Model and Object Series: Three drawing-books and manual. 5. The Aesthetic Series: Six drawing-books and manual. 7. The Institute Series: Two drawing-books, one for Primary and the other for Grammar and High-school grades.

The system is highly praised by many superintendents, professors and teachers in different States, and seems certainly to be at the least an important step in the direction of the "Ideal

Course in Elementary Art Education" which it was the aim of the author to make it. In an accompanying treatise, Professor Thompson takes the ground, which we believe is the true and tenable one, that drawing, like language, is related to every other department of intellectual education: but that it has no departmental existence of its own, and that it cannot, should not, be treated as an independent subject. It is to be the servant or the handmaid of all, but it must wait until it can be useful to them. His system of drawing-books and manuals cannot fail to be of great service in carrying out that idea, by reason of its comprehensiveness and consequent adaptability.

A HOME COMPANY'S PROMPT ACTION.

THE practical benefits derived from life insurance cannot be over-estimated. A policy of life insurance always proves a source of comfort to a bereaved family in moderate circumstances. The munificent proceeds derived from such in a great many cases provide the family with the comforts they may have always enjoyed, while, if the policy had not been secured, the result would be otherwise. The North American Life Assurance Company, Toronto, Ont., has gained for itself an enviable reputation for the promptness displayed by its officials in the payment of claims made upon the company. The following letter has just been received from the beneficiary of a deceased policy-holder:—

"Chatham, N.B., Oct. 2, 1894.

"Hugh S. Wright, Esq., District Manager, North American Life Assurance Company, Woodstock, N.B.:

"DEAR SIR,—Allow me to thank you for your kind attention in assisting me to complete the necessary papers in connection with the claim under Policy No. 11139, on the life of my son, Rev. William A. Lawler, deceased.

"I must also thank the company for their prompt settlement of the claim. Proof papers were sent from here on the 13th of September, and I am in receipt of your check bearing date the 17th of September.

"Wishing you and your company every success, I remain,

"Yours very truly,

"MRS. W. LAWLER."

Fond Mother—Yes, sir; I have a little fellow who is only ten, and yet he writes beautiful poetry. Old Editor—Well there's some hope for them when you catch 'em young, you can whip it out of 'em easier then.

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