

Dr. Cox, Principal of the Grammar School, received a very fine microscope on the closing day of the term, from the lady teachers who attended his semi-weekly evening class for teachers who are seeking an advancement of grade.—*Chatham World*.

The trustees of Grand Bay, Kings County, with the assistance of the teacher, Miss Duffy, have procured blackboard surface and a Webster's Dictionary.

The High School at Cardigan Bridge, P. E. I., was inspected on June 9th by Inspector McCormac. At the close of the examination very interesting and practical addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Gunn, Mr. Wagstaff, of Halifax, and others. Principal Coffin and his staff are to be congratulated on the satisfactory standing of the school.

The P. E. I. school year closed on June 30th. Many teachers have changed their fields of labor at the close of the last year.

The Executive Committee of the P. E. I. Educational Association met in Charlottetown on the 11th June to complete arrangements for the Teacher's Convention which is to be held in Charlottetown on Thursday and Friday the 6th and 7th of October next.

Mr. Edwin Wagstaff, representing T. C. Allen & Co., educational publishers, Halifax, visited many of the P. E. I. educationists during the months of May and June, gathering testimony with regard to Jackson's Vertical Copy Books and Kennedy & O'Hearn's Arithmetic. The opinions have been almost unanimously favorable to both books, and it is probable that the Board of Education of the province will place them on the list of authorized text-books.

Miss Emma Hunter, teacher at Bayswater, Westfield, Kings Co., has also added slate blackboards to her school apparatus.

The Cape Bear school, Kings Co., P. E. I., has been advanced to the rank of a graded school, and an extra department has been added.

The Annual Examination for teachers' licenses was held in Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, during the first week of June last. Twenty candidates secured first class certificates, and forty-nine received second class certificates.

There is at present an over-plus of teachers in P. E. I., consequently many have been unable to obtain situations for the present school year.

The examinations for entrance to the Prince of Wales College and Normal School, P. E. I., were held during the first week of July at the following local centres: Charlottetown, Summerside, Souris, Montague, and Alberton. They were attended by upwards of 400 candidates.

No schools in Charlotte County are more up to date in the way of improved apparatus than those of Grand Harbor, Grand Manan. Physical culture is not neglected. The girls are provided with croquet and the boys with foot ball. They expect soon to add a horizontal bar.

Mr. Timothy Macdonald has been appointed Principal of the Montague Schools, P. E. I. Mr. A. S. Fraser has resigned his position as Principal of Murray Harbor South School. Mr. R. J. Smith, formerly Principal of Midgell School, has accepted a position on the staff of Queen Square School, Charlottetown. Mr. D. Montgomery succeeded Mr. McIntyre as head teacher of Grand View Graded School. The High Schools at Colville, Cardigan and Georgetown have engaged for the present year the same teachers as they had during the last school year.

## RECENT BOOKS.

A book with the attractive title of *Seed Travellers*<sup>1</sup> cannot fail to win a large number of interested readers; and appearing as it does in the season when seeds are in process of being distributed on the "wings of the wind" and in many other ingenious ways, it will awaken curiosity and stimulate the desire to know more of such a subject. The many adaptations for seed dissemination and the desirability of plants choosing fresh fields and pastures new for the abode of their offspring, impresses the studious observer of nature. In this book he will find a guide at once intelligent and delightful.

This book on general science<sup>2</sup> well illustrates the advance made in recent years in the methods of teaching science. "The only scientific knowledge worth having is that gained by individual observation and experience" is a conclusion that has been slowly reached even by the more intelligent teachers, and it is doubtful if examining bodies have brought themselves to accept this conclusion, so much at variance is their practice with what it should be. We have long been of the opinion that a little science work in our schools with many simple and practical experiments performed by the student with logical deductions therefrom, in which the assistance of an intelligent and skilful teacher is of paramount importance, is what we should always aim at and never rest until we secure it. All mere talk on science from the teacher's rostrum should be relegated to the school waste-basket. No book in elementary science that has recently appeared seems to combine the much in little that this does. The general laws and phenomena of physical science are illustrated with clearness, and the experimental part is admirable.

The Macmillans have placed many teachers under obligations to them in the cheap and excellent scientific works which they are publishing. The Murché series of Domestic Science Readers<sup>3</sup> are especially worthy of note and should be in every school library.

The subject of Cooking in Schools is given a singularly clear and practical treatment in a cheap little pamphlet just published.<sup>4</sup> It gives a series of simple lessons practically illustrating how Cookery may be taught in schools and be rendered of the greatest benefit in the homes of working people. In the introduction the author states these plain facts, which are as true of this country as of England: "All these articles—cereals, beef, mutton and such like—are handed over to the female half of the human species to be converted into food for the sustenance of themselves, their husbands and their families. How do they use their powers? Can they cook? Have they been taught to cook? \* \* \* Thousands of artisans and laborers

<sup>1</sup> SEED TRAVELLERS: Studies of the Methods of Dispersal of the Various Common Seeds, by Clarence Moores Weed. Pages 53: price 30 cents. Ginn & Co., Publishers, Boston, U. S. A.

<sup>2</sup> ELEMENTARY GENERAL SCIENCE, by A. T. Simmons, B. Sc. (London) and L. M. Jones, B. Sc. (London). Pages 328; price 3s. 6d. Macmillan & Co., Publishers, London and New York.

<sup>3</sup> MURCHÉ'S DOMESTIC SCIENCE READERS, BOOK VII, by Vincent T. Murché. Pages 298. Price 1s. 9d. Macmillan & Co., Publishers, London and New York.

<sup>4</sup> SIMPLE LESSONS IN COOKERY, FOR THE USE OF TEACHERS OF ELEMENTARY AND TECHNICAL CLASSES, by Mary Harrison. Pages 97. Price 1s. 6d. Macmillan & Co., Publishers, London and New York.