

and Misses West (Amherst), Grant (Springhill), Cameron (Parrsboro), and Crandall (Oxford).

After the election, Mr. A. S. Ford gave another lesson in the tonic sol-fa system. Mr. Scanlan, of Nappan, who spent a large portion of his vacation at the World's Fair, three days of which were spent in the educational department, read a very interesting and instructive paper on "The Educational Exhibit at the World's Fair." Principal Ruggles of Acadia Mines, with a class from the Springhill academy, gave a lesson illustrative of his method of teaching writing. Principal Torry, of Springhill, read a paper, "Short Cuts in Arithmetic." The discussion of these papers occupied considerable time and were very interesting. Inspector Craig gave a valuable talk on "School Returns."

At the afternoon session Principal Campbell, Parrsboro, read a paper on "The School Section as an Educator." This paper called forth much praise, and by request of the convention will be published in the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW. A paper on "The Teaching of Mathematics" was read by Principal Healy, Pughwash. After the discussion of these papers and on the suggestion of Dr. Mackay, "The Course of Study" was thrown open for discussion, and all seeming difficulties as presented by the different teachers present were explained away by the superintendent, Dr. Mackay, to the entire satisfaction of the convention.

The usual votes of thanks to Dr. Mackay and Principal Russel for their valuable assistance, the railways for reducing fares, the teachers and town council for their reception, etc., were passed. Much regret was expressed that Mr. E. J. Lay, principal of the Amherst academy was prevented from being present by the serious illness of Mrs. Lay.

In the absence of Mr. Lay, Mr. A. S. Ford, on behalf of the Amherst teachers, extended a hearty invitation to the convention to meet at Amherst at their next session, and by a unanimous vote of the convention the invitation was accepted—*Halifax Herald*.

In both France and Germany one-fourth reduced to a decimal is written as 0,25; in England it is written 0.25 (always with the period at the top of the line), and in the United States in this way, 0.25. France and Germany always use the comma, England and the United States the period, the only difference being the manner in which it is placed upon the line. Sir Isaac Newton is given the credit of originating the present English method of using the decimal point, his reason being that by placing it at the top of the line it could be distinguished at a glance from the "full stop" punctuation mark. All English mathematicians use the mark in the way proposed by Newton, and the period as a sign of multiplication.—*Scientific American*.

For the REVIEW.]

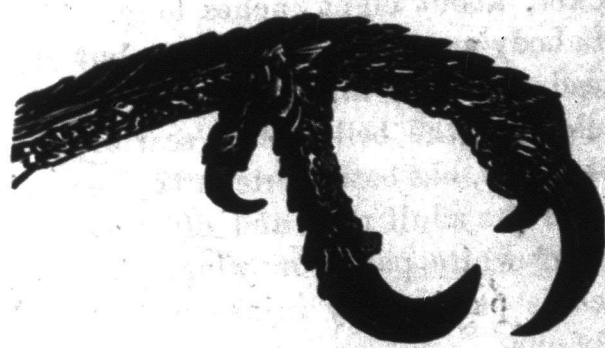
NATURE LESSONS.

The Woodpecker Family.



HAIRY WOODPECKER, x 1-3.

Here is the Hairy Woodpecker, so called from the hairy character of the feathers on its back. Its dress is made up entirely of modest white and black, except in the male, who, in addition, sports a scarlet patch on the back of his head. The white covers all the under part of the body, and the side feathers of the tail. Its black upper parts are marked with a white patch along the back, a white collar band just over each shoulder from which a white curve runs below the eye to the forehead, matched by an opposite curve running from the eye nearly to meet the other curve at the shoulder. The eye is partially within this white line parenthesis. Then there are numerous smaller spots of white on the wing feathers. But see how its claws grip the bark of the tree on which it



ZYGODACTYLE FOOT. (Woodpecker.)

climbs. Two toes are in front and two are behind. Even were the poor bird shot these sharp claws might still keep their hold in

the bark. There is a good reason then, you see, for calling these birds "climbers," so well are their feet constructed for such an exercise. But their woodpecking performances are perhaps even more conspicuous. How many times have you seen them chiseling a hole through the bark of a suspicious looking tree for the worms or other insects guessed to be finding shelter there. How many a time have the boys going into the woods seen a hole bored into the side of an