

cussed by teachers and parents. The Superior School and the Underhill and Lockstead Schools are represented in the Institute and it was decided to award prizes to the three schools for the term which began on the 8th inst. A committee was appointed to designate the prizes and the subjects for which they are to be awarded.

H. M. Quinn, principal of Success Business College, Truro, N. S., with his wife and child spent Christmas with Mrs. Quinn's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ellegood, at Dumfries.

The Christmas closing at the Rockford Square School, Charlottetown, P. E. I., was the occasion for an exceedingly well arranged programme. The chair was occupied by J. P. Gordon of the city school board, and among those present were Hon. Dr. Jenkins, Dr. McMillan, H. Smith, His Lordship Bishop O'Leary, H. H. Shaw and Mr. Seaman.

At the Christmas season the teachers and pupils of West Kent School decided to forego their usual exchange of gifts and instead give to a more worthy object, namely, to the fund for the relief of the Belgian children. The following are the teachers and pupils contributing: Grades IX and X, H. Johnson, teacher, \$2.00, pupils, \$2.60; Grade VIII, A. B. Campbell, \$2.00, pupils, \$6.60; Grade VII, H. Yeo, teacher, \$1.00, pupils 70cts.; Grade V, pupils of Miss Smith's department, \$1.00; grade I and II, pupils of Miss Finlayson's department, \$1.30, total \$17.20.

In the article on Suitable Songs for the schoolroom published in the November REVIEW, the songbook, "The Children's Year" was quoted at 50cts. The correct price is 60 cts.

#### BOOK REVIEWS.

**Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Third Edition).**—With 1,248 pages 1,700 illustrations, treating about 100,000 words, with numerous supplemental vocabularies and helps, in a book less than 1½ inches thick and measuring less than six by nine inches, this 1917 abridgement of Webster's New International Dictionary is a triumph in English dictionary making. The editors had the every-day user of English in mind as well as the college student, and for ordinary uses rarely would one need to go to unabridged dictionaries. In addition to the full vocabulary, including many foreign words of frequent occurrence in English, the average writer and reader will welcome the clear and concise information on rules for spelling, punctuation, abbreviations, as well as the vocabularies of foreign words and phrases, biographical dictionary, pronouncing Gazetteer, and the new glossary of Scottish words and phrases of such frequent occurrence in literature. The binding and general get-up of this "edition de luxe" are in keeping with the high quality of the dictionary itself, and the volume is an admirable gift book. (G. and C. Merriam Company, Springfield, Mass.; art canvas cover, \$3.50; full seal, \$5; full levant morocco, \$6.)

**Wild Animal Stamp Primer** (Illustrated with photographs taken in the New York Zoological Park.) Some fifty animal stories written especially for children are told by one who knows children and who knows the animals. The stories are illustrated by carefully colored reproductions from unusually good animal photographs, and the information given in the stories has been carefully reviewed by the director of the New York Zoological Park, and can be relied upon as authentic. The colored stamp illustrations are furnished in a separate envelope in the front of the book, ready for pasting in their proper position by the child. It is a little book for a combination study and play hour that parents and teachers will welcome. (H. R. Mitchell, New York Zoological Park, New York City, 85 cents, postage 7 cents.)

The **Owlet Library** consists of ten little volumes, each illustrated with twenty-four colored pictures, in the form of pasters, ready for the children to paste on the proper page, which contains a little note describing the picture. Among the subjects treated in the booklets are birds, fish, flowers, wild beasts, tame animals, Mother Goose rhymes and fairy tales. (Picture Paster Publishing Company, 31 Union Square, North, New York City. \$1 net for the set.)

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Albert Perry Brigham and Charles T. McFarlane, **Essentials of Geography.** New York, Cincinnati, Chicago, American Book Company. A two book series with many maps and illustrations. **First Book.** Cloth eight inches by ten inches. Pp. 266. Price 72c. **Second Book.** Cloth eight inches by ten inches. Pp. 426. Price \$1.24.

When the political map of much of the world is being crumpled up and apparently obliterated by a cataclysm of war they are bold authors who in pursuit of a steadfast purpose bring out a new series of geographies. Brigham and McFarlane show even greater assurance than this for, regardless of present as well as of past strife among the nations, they assert that geography "can be so studied as to give the pupil inspiring ideas of the unity of the world and its people."

The authors of **The Essentials of Geography** are to be particularly commended upon the selection and the arrangement of subject matter for this deeper educative effect of the study. The children will gain from the study of these texts constantly new appreciations of what is being done about them and of what they may do. The ways of living and of working differ in form in the different regions of the earth but they agree in principle among all men. The evidence of this, brought out by the authors even in the first chapters, awakens a deeper and broader interest in the study.

In all the years Mrs. Fiske has been a leader in the theatre, she has refused to put on paper her sharply unorthodox views on plays, playwrights, and actors. She has remained the sphinx of the American stage. But at last Alexander Woollcott, dramatic critic of the "New York Times," has succeeded in getting her to talk; and the January Century contains the first of the series of articles in which he records his remarkable conversations with her.

The January Century includes also an appreciation by E. R. Lipsett of the most distinguished theatrical production of the New York season; a group of pictures illustrating the achievements of American women in Sculpture, along with an article by Ada Rainey; a record of mental processes observed in the natives of the Andes, by Harry A. Franck; "The Sinistres of France," by Mary Heaton Vorse; an argument on behalf of the Irish rebels, by J. F. Byrne; a ballad of the trenches by James Norman Hall, who wrote "Kitchener's Mob;" a frontispiece in color by Lester H. Gornby; "The Chinese Philosopher and the War," by Stacy Aumonier; poems by Hermann Hagedorn and others, etc.

Florence Howe Hall, author of the just published book "The Story of the Battle Hymn of the Republic," will spend the winter in New York City. She intends to divide her time between writing, giving occasional talks on manners and other subjects, and working for suffrage. Mrs. Hall, it will be remembered, is the daughter of Julia Ward Howe, and is the author of "Social Usages at Washington" and other volumes on the subject of etiquette.

**Bird-Lore** for December is a 174 page number and contains in addition to the usual articles on birds and bird-life, teachers' department, colored plates, etc., the annual report of the National Association of Audubon Societies. This report shows that the year ending October 31, 1916, was the most active in the history of this organization. The total disbursement for the year exceeded \$120,000, the largest sum expended by the Association in any one year; a fact, which, in view of the financial conditions which have prevailed during the past year, speaks volumes for the loyalty of those who are interested in the preservation of our birds.

A hundred miles from Calcutta is Bolpur. At Bolpur is Skatiniketan, the famous forest school of Rabindranath Tagore, described by W. W. Pearson in a little volume (McMillan & Company, New York), which takes the name of the school for its title. Shantiniketan was established by Tagore's father as a religious retreat. Its name means House of Peace. About a hundred and thirty boys study there music, nature, poetry, languages and other subjects, but especially the ideals of India. Their recitation rooms are on the house verandah or out in the open. A boy may take his examination sitting high in a tree. But Shantiniketan has won its laurels in football and other sports. In Mr. Pearson's book are pictures by one student, a short story by another and a preface by the poet-founder himself. The volume is of rare interest; the school is unique.