

BOOK REVIEWS.

MENSURATION, by W. S. Hall, C. E., M. E., M. S., pp. 62, published by Ginn & Co., Boston.

This little volume is intended as a supplement to such books on trigonometry as are deficient in practical exercises—such books being in use in some colleges. Rules are given sometimes with the proof: but more frequently with reference to Wm. Geom. without any explanation as to what Geometry is meant by the Wm. Geom. It would be much better to have such exercises as are here given, always associated with the theoretical part of the subject.

BEST PRIMARY SONGS, by Amos M. Kellogg, 58 pages, published by E. L. Kellogg & Co., New York. A fairly good selection for primary departments. It is written in the staff notation.

STUDIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY, by Mary S. Barnes. (Teacher's Manual,) 155 pages, price 60 cents, published by D. C. Heath & Co., Boston, 1892. This volume shows how to "deal with historic records at first hand as the geologist deals with fossils, the botanist with plants." "The questions asked demand of the pupil independent thought, feeling and expression, instead of asking him to read and repeat the opinions, sentiments and words of others."

"In the study of heroic deeds of peace and war, you lay a concrete basis for patriotism without saying a word about it. Let the teacher ask himself: What are the connections of my city, town, or vicinity with the general history of the country?" "One important outcome of these local studies, should be the formation of local historical collections." "There should be kept in every school where history is taught, a historical scrap-book."

These sentences serve to indicate that Miss Barnes is an ideal teacher of history. Such a book for our Canadian schools would simply be invaluable.

HUME'S TREATISE OF MORALS and selections from the *Treatise of the Passions* with an *Introduction*, by James H. Hyslop, Ph. D. pp. 275, published by Ginn & Co., Boston. This is the first of a series of publications to be called the Ethical series, in which the ethical system of Hobbes, Clarke, Locke, Hume, Kant and Hegel, are to be discussed and illustrated by full selections from the works of these philosophers. In the introduction, covering 54 pages, Dr. Hyslop gives a very clear and valuable account of the organic relations existing between Hume's system and the systems of his predecessors and contemporaries, and of Hume's ideas as affected by the circumstances of his life. The publication of this series will make easy for many the study of ethics, to whom otherwise it would be difficult or impossible.

The D. Lothrop Company brought out a set of readers, graded, to meet the demands of the several ages of scholars, for which they were intended, and arranged by the best authorities on the subject. Their **INTERSTATE PRIMER** and **INTERSTATE READERS, I. and II.**, are endorsed by the best supervisors, superintendents and teachers all over the country "as at the head for children's reading books." The publishers have issued the **INTERSTATE THIRD READER**, prepared by an expert in the field, Miss Mary T. Lovejoy,

who has long been working at the problem how best to teach children to use their reasoning powers, and to exercise the thought faculty in acquiring the use of good English. D. Lothrop Co., Boston, Mass. Price 40 cents.

CATALOGUE OF THE LIBRARY OF KINGS COLLEGE, WINDSOR, N. S., with occasional annotations, by Harry Piers. We congratulate Mr. Piers and Windsor College on this excellent catalogue of one of the most valuable libraries in the Maritime Provinces—containing, as it does, many very rare editions. Mr. Piers had already achieved considerable success as a writer of articles for the Nova Scotia Institute of Science, of which he is a councillor. This effort will add very considerably to his growing reputation as a writer.

Miss Mary F. Hyde has added to her series of language lessons **ADVANCED LESSONS ON ENGLISH**. This series aims to secure a natural method of studying English. The work does not aim to teach the greatest possible number of facts about the English language, but to give the pupil a mastery of the leading grammatical principles as a means toward the right understanding and correct use of English. The book is divided into four parts. Part I. treats of "Kinds of Words—the Parts of Speech;" Part II. of "Classes and Forms of Words—Sub-divisions of the Parts of Speech and Inflection;" Part III. of "Relations of Words—Syntax;" Part IV. of the "Structure and Analysis of Sentences." Ginn & Co., Boston.

A PRACTICAL COURSE IN ENGLISH COMPOSITION FOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES, by A. G. Newcomer. Boston: Ginn & Co. The new method of teaching composition is based on the theory that the only way to learn writing is to write, and therefore instead of wearying and disgusting the student with dry technicalities he is encouraged from the very outset to express his own ideas. The special features of this book are, first, that it shows how simple it is to find material for writing; and secondly, how easily and pleasantly that material can be worked up into compositions. Seventy-three exercises are given, each dealing with some particular kind of composition, proceeding from the simplest narration to the most ingenious forms of argument and the highest style of oratory. Specimen subjects and themes are given, together with suggestions as to dealing with them. Lastly, models are furnished, sometimes from writers of established reputation, but also selected from work actually produced by students, so that the young writer will be encouraged by seeing that success is not beyond his reach. The book is heartily to be commended as not only logical and comprehensive, but also most interesting and stimulating.

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A LABORATORY MANUAL containing directions for a course of experiments in organic chemistry, to accompany Remsen's *Organic Chemistry*, by W. R. Orndorff, A. B., Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Chemistry in Cornell University. Price 40 cents. Publishers: D. C. Heath & Co., Boston. This little volume, containing the description of some eighty-two experiments, is recommended by Prof. Ira Remsen as a valuable adjunct to his volume on organic chemistry.