

THE seventeenth annual report of the Halifax School for the Blind has just been published. It records a year of progress and increased efficiency in methods towards improving the condition of those who are placed at such a great disadvantage with their fellow-creatures. The school is admirably conducted and is well deserving not only of public but private liberality.

IN speaking of the resources of Newfoundland, Mr. Norman says in the *Pall Mall Gazette*: "For abundant evidence in justification of these optimistic forecasts let the reader apply to the Rev. Moses Harvey, F. R. G. S., of St. John's, the historian of Newfoundland, to whose exhaustive knowledge of the history and condition of this island, backed by the most patriotic devotion, every inhabitant and every visitor is under obligations, and myself not least so among the latter."

THE *St. Croix Courier* referring to the Labrador Tea Plant described in the January number of the REVIEW, says: "We agree with the REVIEW's conclusion that, when the probability of securing a more healthful general beverage, and at the same time developing a new industry within our country is indicated, both science and patriotism suggest a patient and complete investigation of the facts."

MR. W. F. GANONG's paper on the echinoderms of the Bay of Fundy, read this month before the New Brunswick Natural History Society, was a valuable contribution to the knowledge of these marine forms. Mr. Ganong pointed out that they are interesting objects of study, as illustrations of animal life and structure, especially in the lower forms. He urged teachers and students on the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence to endeavor to ascertain what species are to be found in those waters, in order that ampler information concerning their distribution may be furnished.

THE Course of Instruction for Superior Schools in New Brunswick, drawn up by the Chief Superintendent and the Inspectors, will be found in this issue, and we direct special attention to it as it takes the place of the Course which by an oversight was published in the November issue of the REVIEW. Both the Grammar School Course published in October, and the Superior School Course in this issue have been adopted for the present term by the Board of Education. In another column will also be found the proposed changes in the Common School Course which is of interest to the teachers of New Brunswick.

THE teachers of Fredericton have made arrangements with Dr. Bailey to give a series of lectures in geology and botany during the winter and spring.

WE have just received from the publisher, T. Fisher Unwin, of London, a volume of Addresses by the late Edward Thring, Head Master of Uppingham School, England. In the volume before us, and which we have had time merely to glance through, there is the address to the Teachers' Guild, published in the July number of the REVIEW, through which was breathed the earnest spirit of this great teacher. The volume is edited by Sarah E. Thring, his daughter, and "is dedicated in fulfilment of the author's wish, to George R. Parkin, Head Master of the Collegiate School, Fredericton, New Brunswick, his fellow-worker over the seas."

MR. MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN has conferred a boon on science by the publication of his catalogue of Canadian birds, which comprises all the species known to Canadian ornithologists. With but limited time at his disposal, but with an earnestness, an industry and a love for the work that no obstacle could overcome, Mr. Chamberlain has toiled patiently at his task. With that spirit that distinguishes the true scientific enquirer, he has delivered his work conscious that it has imperfections, but desirous that it may lead to a fuller knowledge of bird life and distribution in Canada. Since the publication of Mr. Chamberlain's list of New Brunswick birds, six years ago, he has seen the students of bird life in this Province rapidly multiply, and now in the greatly extended field, and in the many observers appealed to, there is a prospect of more systematic attempts to study Canadian bird life in the future. The taste shown in the arrangement and mechanical execution of the work is highly creditable to the author as well as to the publishers, Messrs. J. & A. McMillan.

AT a recent meeting of the Montreal Natural History Society, the President, Sir Wm. Dawson, exhibited a cast of the new trilobite (*Paradoxides regina*) recently discovered by Mr. Matthew in the Cambrian of New Brunswick, and remarked on its great size and the importance of its discovery. He then read a paper on certain sponges discovered by Dr. Hanington in the Quebec group rocks at Little Metis, describing one of them as a species of *Protospongia* (*P. tetraneima*) and explaining its form and structure in comparison with other sponges recent and fossil, and the peculiar form of its root-spicules. He also referred to four other sponges found at the same locality, and belonging to four distinct generic types.