

For the REVIEW] **NATURE LESSONS.****Reptiles (Reptilia) of the Atlantic Provinces.****A. THE SNAKES.**

1. RED-BELLIED SNAKE (*Storeria occipitomaculata*). Greyish or brownish above, with faint dots on side. Back of head with three pale blotches. Belly, salmon red.

2. COMMON GARTER SNAKE (*Eutania sirtalis*). Olivaceous above with three series of small dark spots on each side. Sides and belly greenish white.

3. GRASS SNAKE (*Liopeltis vernalis*). Uniform deep green above, yellowish below. (Not reported from P. E. Island).

4. BLACK SNAKE (*Bascania constrictor*). Lustrous pitch black above, greenish below, chin and throat white. Young, olive with lozenge-shaped black blotches.

5. RING-NECKED SNAKE (*Diadophis punctatus*). Blue black above, pale orange below. Yellow ring, two scales wide about the neck. (Not reported from P. E. I.)

B. THE TURTLES.

1. LEATHER TURTLE (*Dermochelys coriacea*). Marine. Smooth, leathery skin, dark brown, six to eight feet long. Occasional visitors of the Atlantic coast.

2. COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE (*Chelydra serpentina*). Fresh water. Shell, dusky brown. Two feet long. Common in the larger lakes.

3. PAINTED TURTLE (*Chrysemys picta*). Fresh water. Shell, greenish black above, yellowish below. Plates margined with paler, marginal plates marked with bright red. Eight inches long. Common.

4. WOOD TORTOISE (*Chelopus insculptus*). In woods and fields. Reported, but doubtfully, from Nova Scotia.

[We have not seen any of the turtles reported from P. E. Island. If any other species are known in New Brunswick or the other provinces, the editor will be obliged to any one reporting the same on good authority. We may have oral lessons on some of these in future numbers of the REVIEW.]

The Planets in May.

During this month a splendid opportunity will be afforded for seeing the planet Mercury after sunset, an opportunity which no one should lose, because Mercury, on account of its proximity to the sun, is difficult to catch sight of except under very favorable conditions. It will be visible in the west all the month, but will be best seen about the middle, when it is at its greatest distance from the sun. It attains its greatest eastern elongation on the 16th, when it will be seen shining between the horns of Taurus, a few degrees south of the second magnitude star Beta or El Nath. With a telescope it will then appear in the form of a half moon.

While Mercury is on exhibition as an evening star, Venus the typical evening star when it lies eastward from the sun, will remain inconspicuous in the morning sky, gradually drawing nearer to the sun, behind which it will pass early in July. At the beginning of the month Venus will be in Pisces; at the end in Taurus.

Mars is a morning star, moving slowly in the course of the month from Aquarius into Pisces, and at the close of the month it will rise about one o'clock in the morning.

Jupiter, remaining in Cancer, and slowly drawing nearer the "Beehive" cluster, will continue to be the most brilliant planet in sight throughout the month, and, in fact, throughout the early part of summer. Castor and Pollux in the Twins are so near the great planet that its presence serves to point out those famous stars to persons unfamiliar with the constellations. Being brighter than any fixed star, Jupiter ought to be readily identified, but there is an easy way for those who possess a strong field glass or spy glass to make the identification doubly sure. Such an instrument cannot fail to show one or more of Jupiter's moons, and in favorable circumstances, all of the four principal moons.

Saturn, in the constellation Libra, rises early in the evening, and by nine or ten o'clock is in an excellent position for observation. Being in opposition to the sun, it is, roughly speaking, at its nearest point to the earth, and consequently, most favorably situated for telescopic study. The earth is not quite so far north of the plane of the rings as it was at the end of winter, but the change is not sufficient to cause the rings to appear to the ordinary observer appreciably narrower, and, in fact, the whole planet, in all its dimensions, looks a trifle larger on account of its nearer approach.

Uranus is also in Libra, nearly between the fourth magnitude stars Gamma and Iota. Coming into opposition on the 12th, it should be visible to the naked eye, but, in order to identify it, the observer should watch it with a field glass, and note its position from night to night in relation to small stars near it.

Neptune is in Taurus and Mercury will be near it at the middle of May.—Garrett P. Serviss in *Scientific American*.

Teachers should ever be students. No teacher can succeed who is content to remain in a state of rest, or who stops to ask the cost of his labor, or what will be his reward. The world owes nothing to its contented men and women. Contentment means decline. The only way to do well is to strive to do better. This law of growth through striving is as universal in its application as the law of gravitation. A teacher without an ideal—an ever-movable ideal—is intellectually, if not morally, dead.—Patrick's *Pedagogics*.