

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL RECORD :

While I have no desire to measure swords with Mr. Proctor in a grammatical contest, I will venture to say a word in behalf of the "grammarians" relative to the question of the possessive case of the personal pronoun.

His reference to the French and Latin does not seem to me as at all conclusive. Our language has peculiarities of its own and neither the French nor Latin has any case exactly corresponding to the English possessive. With regard to his disposal of *mine*, *thine*, etc., when used alone, I have no objection to offer; but where these forms are used with nouns, (as "*mine eyes*," "*thine house*"), or when the forms *my*, *thy*, *his*, etc., are used, they seem to be, in every proper sense of the term, *personal pronouns*. They "*supply the place of nouns*," exactly as the nominative or objective forms would do; they agree with their antecedents in gender, number and person, (which *mon*, *ton*, etc., in French do not), in fact, perform every office of personal pronouns; and I can see no more propriety in classing them as *adjectives* than there would be in classing possessive nouns as adjectives. To parse the first word "*his*" of this paragraph as an adjective, would seem to me as incongruous as to parse "*Mr. Proctor's*," for which it is intentionally used, as an adjective.

I fail to see the force of Mr. Proctor's argument that these words cannot be used *without nouns*. It is true only in part; and when it is the case, it arises not from any want in these words of the characteristics of pronouns, but from the fact that usage has supplied other forms which include both the possessive and the idea of the thing possessed.

H. HUBBARD.

SHERBROOKE, Dec. 10, 1885.

 BOOK NOTICES, ETC.

Elements of Chemistry, by James H. Shepard. Heath & Co., Boston.—This work is based upon plans and methods which have been employed in the author's laboratory for a number of years. The proof sheets which have been read by a number of the leading chemists of the United States, have met with strong commendation. The author opens with a chapter to the teacher, in which he discusses the best method of conducting a class in chemistry. A historic sketch follows, in which the author traces the development of the science from the earliest days down to the present time. In the introduction, the general principles which lie at the foundation of the science are discussed and illustrated. The elements are then taken up under the heads: Occurrence, Proposition, Properties and Texts, and a series of practical exercises is given at the close of each chapter. The facts are stated in a clear and concise manner, and suggestive notes and queries are inserted throughout the chapters, which add greatly to the value of the work.

Questions on Cæsar and Xenophon, by E. C. Ferguson, Ph. D., Prof. Latin and Greek, Chaddock Coll. Quincy, Ill.—(Introduction price, \$1.12).—One beginning a Latin or Greek Author, finds, at the outset, this difficulty,—he does not know where to find in his grammar what he needs.

The object of these questions, which are almost wholly grammatical and cover the entire first books of Cæsar and Xenophon, is to furnish a guide by which the young student may as speedily as possible lay hold of the facts he requires.