to pick up things and put them in her basket. Her uncle was watching her, and at last asked her what she was doing. She told him, "picking strawberries." Then he saw she was homesick, and, taking her on his knee, asked her to tell him all about looking for strawberries in the fields. As she told him, the joy of the old days in the country made her forget all about where she was. She described a day when she stayed too late in the field, after the other children had gone home, so busy was she in filling her basket and gathering wild flowers in her apron. Then as she hurried home she heard a noise that frightened her, and that made her run faster. As she told the story her uncle was watching her, and noticed how earnest her face grew, and how her eyes stood out as she told about being frightened. Then he made a quick sketch of her face and her wide open eyes, and, telling her to stand on the floor before him, he painted her picture; and that is the story of how Sir Joshua Reynolds made one of his best paintings.

The Skies in March.

A correspondent writes: "Since the last issue of the REVIEW we have been greatly interested in the study of the stars which was so clearly and attractively begun in that number, and except for which I should never have attempted to take up this part of nature study in school." It is hoped that many other teachers have drawn the attention of their scholars to the skies on the clear bright evenings of February, and that they will continue their observations during the month of March.

Jupiter is now high up in the south-eastern sky at 7 p. m. Directly above him are the two bright stars Castor and Pollux in the constellation of the Twins. Below him and to the left is the star Regulus forming the end of the handle of a sickle in the constellation of the Great Lion. But the chief glory centres in the southern sky, where Sirius and Procyon, chief stars of the Great Dog and Little Dog constellations, shine with increased radiance as they reach further up from the horizon. Orion, Taurus and other constellations of the southern sky are mounting upward, and in later evening "sloping slowly to the west."

In the west, the planet Venus is the brightest object in the heavens, twenty times brighter than any star near her. At last she has outshone her rival—Jupiter. Fix the place where she appears at sunset or just after. Then on the following clear evening see if the young eyes of the scholars cannot pick her out before sunset. Then earlier in the afternoon, until they can find her at midday.

About the middle of February there were four planets to be seen in the western sky. Lowest down and near the horizon, with no star near it, was Mercury, of a bright pinkish tinge; next above was Saturn, of a yellowish colour; then the resplendent Venus, and highest of all the ruddy Mars, but all nearly in line following the sun. Mercury has disappeared, to be seen again as morning star during the last days of March. In May he will again appear as evening star.

"But how can we tell it is the planet Mercury, not a fixed star?" some one inquires. That will require a little experience and careful observation; but as he appears in good position several times in a year as evening star and several times as morning star, persistent eyes may find him. Keep in mind that a planet is constantly changing its place with respect to the fixed stars about it. To appreciate the finding of Mercury, one needs to know something about him,his wonderful motions, and his rapid change from evening to morning star, and *vice versa*. Get Ball's "Starland," one of the best books about the stars for young people. (Ginn & Co., Boston. Price, one dollar). This will teach you many things about the sun, moon and stars in a very interesting way.

Saturn will be the next planet to drop out of sight and sink into the sun apparently, if he has not done so before the March REVIEW reaches its readers. Venus will be evening star until the last of June, and Mars until early in August. Then they will re-appear as morning stars early in autumn. Thus they take their turns, coming to their allotted places year after year, inviting us to study them and to hail their re-appearance. We cannot do this unless we know them.

[Steinberger, Hendry & Company, Toronto, have little boxes of gold and silver stars, recommended in C. S. B.'s article in the February REVIEW. Price ten cents a box.]

Common sense is the name which practical people give to the best and easiest way of doing their work, and the simplest and completest way of gaining knowledge or explaining any difficulty. Common sense consists of reasoning on the evidence of the senses, but without keeping account of the process. When this common-sense method is made precise and accurate, it becomes the scientific method of gained knowledge.—*Hugh Robert O'Neil.*