

NOTES FOR TEACHERS.

MOUNT ST ELIAS.—This mountain, on the border of Alaska, which has been supposed to reach the height of 15,000 feet has, been estimated by recent travellers, who ascended by the western side, to be at least 20,000 feet high. They climbed up to the height of 11,500 feet but owing to the slippery state of the steep ascent, and the depth of snow, could proceed no further.

Books give to all who will faithfully use them, the society and the presence of the best and greatest of our race. No matter how poor I am; no matter though the prosperous of my own time will not enter my obscure dwelling, if learned men and poets will enter and take up their abode under my roof,—if Milton will cross my threshold and sing to me of Paradise; and Shakespeare open to me the world of imagination and the workings of the human heart; and Franklin enrich me with his practical wisdom,—I shall not pine for want of intellectual companionship, and I may become a cultivated man, though excluded from what is called the best society in the place where I live. Nothing can supply the place of books.—*Channing*.

THE SINKING OF THE CORDILLERA OF THE ANDES.—The Cordillera of the Andes has for some time been exhibiting a curious phenomenon. It results from observations made upon the altitudes of the most important points, that their height is gradually diminishing. Quito, which in 1745 was 9,596 feet above the level of the sea, was only 9,570 feet in 1803, 9,567 in 1834, and scarcely 9,520 in 1867. The altitude of Quito has, therefore, diminished by 76 feet in the space of 122 years. Another

peak, the Pichincha, has diminished by 218 feet during the same period, and its crater has descended 425 feet in the last 25 years. That of the Antisana has sunk 165 feet in 64 years.—*La Gazette Geographique*.

It is an interesting fact, especially in view of certain comparisons nearer home that it suggests, that in Australia the subject of school hygiene has received special attention for some years in the state or public schools. The teachers are particularly instructed to be careful about the spread of infectious diseases, and the public health law is sufficiently stringent to secure the exclusion of scholars and teachers from houses in which communicable diseases exist. In the State schools of Victoria, now for a number of years, a system of object lessons has been given, with a view to imparting elementary instruction bearing upon the health of the people; these lessons generally include such subjects as food, clothing, ventilation, cleanliness and the prevention of infectious diseases. There have also been given at stated times lessons for the treatment of snakebite, for the resuscitation of the drowned, and for the first aid to the injured. The Department of Education requires also some elementary knowledge on the part of teachers upon the subjects of sanitation and physiology.—*Ex*.

THE first railway has been laid in Morocco. The line is only a toy for the amusement of the Sultan, but it may have fruitful results nevertheless. The railway, with all its appurtenances, is a gift from the King of the Belgians to Muley Hassan, who appears to be delighted with it. It has been laid in the park surrounding the imperial