

say, it dominates the school curriculum completely. Our system is entirely given over to passive work, instead of having in all the grades the active methods of the Kindergarten and University.

Children have keen interest in the animals, fauna, and flora of their neighborhood before they are interested in inanimate Nature as seen in the stars, weather, or crystals, hence the study should begin with the former, and in particular with pet animals. Teach the children common sense and valuable things about animals, leaving all details of comparative anatomy to specialists. People may live long and die happy without ever having lumbered up their mind with such ideas as "a chicken has three eyelids," or "a dog is covered with hair." Infinitely more practical is it to teach that a gnawing-bone is the dog's tooth-brush, and that it is well to keep him supplied at all times, both for business and amusement.

The book is entertaining for adults, and a good one to keep as a reference.

Ginn & Co., Boston.

DANGERS OF SPIRITUALISM. By a Member of the Society for Psychical Research.

THE danger, be it understood, is to the medium. If you are "mediumistic," don't for your life take a planchette in your hand. There is no telling what a hold the discarnate spirits will get on you.

The author tells us that it is a serious matter to attempt to enter into communications with the unseen intelligences of the spirit world, for the exercise of mediumship is almost always attended by physical exhaustion, very frequently by complete mental prostration, — producing a kind of moral paralysis and inertia of the will. Sometimes there are cataleptic seizures, contortions of the muscles of the face, which are terrible to behold, and which awaken disgust in "all healthy and normally constituted minds." Now, this is just the point. Healthy and

normally constituted minds are not troubled by obsession or possession of evil spirits, and so are never mediums. But let us suppose that we persuade a healthy-minded man to sit day after day in a passive state of mind, waiting for spiritualistic "communications," and nerve-twitchings, how long would he retain his healthy condition? Perhaps three days. His own subliminal consciousness, or, to express it in easier terms, his submerged self, his *alter ego*, his sub-conscious self, which lies dormant except in dreams or under abnormal conditions, would now assert itself, and, for the time, he would be a duplex personality. Reason, will, and intellect, come under the sway of impression, sensation, and irrationalism, which are as powerful as the normal self. To continue under this sway for any length of time must of necessity end in the mental and moral wreckage of the poor dupe.

Now, we do not believe that all who investigate the so-called occult are vulgar tricksters or jugglers. Many scientists and men of integrity have given to the subject a most critical study. Some have declared spiritualism "not proven," and others, deceived by what they failed to understand, have believed.

A short time ago, in Massey Hall, Toronto, I heard Professor Newell, of the Chicago Bible Institute, state that all over Christendom to-day, demons were entering into unlawful connections with women, and as a consequence, spiritualism was rife. Professor Newell was, no doubt, sincere, but we looked around to see if there was not some Toronto Amazon who would defend her sex from the vile accusation, and at the same time put some much-needed sense into his pate by giving him a good old-fashioned "drubbing." But, under the spell of the orator's magnetism and the sway of his burning words, the poor souls drank it in as gospel truth. The man, in his zealous ignorance, was actually bolstering up an evil that never did, nor ever can exist.