

### THE FARMERS AND THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

We publish today an appeal on behalf of the Red Cross Society, by Dr. James W. Robertson.

Dr. Robertson is still best known to the farmers of Canada as Professor Robertson. He began his official public service at the Ontario Agriculture College nearly thirty years ago. Twenty-five years ago he went to Ottawa as Dairy Commissioner for the Dominion. The Dairying Service of the Department of Agriculture soon became known and trusted throughout Canada. From Prince Edward Island to Alberta, farmers profited by the illustration dairy stations and the travelling instructors. The output of cheese and butter in Canada added to the reputation of its rural workers.

Other public services of continuing and growing value were inaugurated, while Professor Robertson was Commissioner of Agriculture. Among them were the live stock branch, the cold storage service, the seed grain competitions, trial shipments of fruit to the United Kingdom, and extensions of markets.

Besides there were the manual training movement, the school gardens, household science, and the consolidated rural schools.

In more recent years, Dr. Robertson was chairman of the Royal Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education. Farmers in all provinces are familiar with the survey of farms by the Commission of Conservation and the Illustration Farms of its Committee on Lands, of which he is chairman.

In these and many other ways, Dr. Robertson has given the farmers of Canada the best that was in him. He says he is their debtor, for many opportunities, for much kindness and for warm appreciations. But they are his debtors too. And he now reminds them of that for the first time in order to establish his right and privilege to appeal to them for this worthy cause.

The editor of the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW will gladly forward to Ottawa and acknowledge the receipt of any sums sent to this office in answer to Dr. Robertson's appeal.

What does this flag stand for? Of course, it stands for the British Empire; but it is because it stands for justice, liberty and Christianity that we honor it.—*Lord Rosebery.*

### NATURE STUDY OF ANIMALS.

H. G. PERRY.

#### Bird Study.

The most striking characteristic of birds, one that distinguishes them from all other classes of vertebrates, is their covering of feathers. Con-



Fig. 1.—ARCHÆOPTERYX.  
I, II, III, IV, digits, showing joints and claws.

trast their covering with the hair of mammals, the scales of reptiles and fish, and the naked slimy integuments of amphibians.

For school work, on feathers, provide a quantity of feathers of different kinds, and have at hand a pigeon or hen in a cage.

The feathers covering the body and those forming the wings and tail of birds, are called contour-feathers.

Select a contour-feather from the body covering. It consists of a hollow base, the quill, from which arises the expanded portion, the firmer distal part of which is called the vane and the fluffy part next the quill, the fluff. The vane is made up of barbs, extending right and left from the rachis. The barbs are bound