

The Rockwood Review.

A little girl in Boston wrote a composition on boys not long ago. Here it is:—"The boy is not an animal, yet they can be heard to a considerable distance. When a boy hollers he opens his big mouth like frogs, but girls hold their tongue till they are spoke to, and then they answer respectable and tell just how it was. A boy thinks himself clever because he can wade where it is deep, but God made the dry land for every living thing, and rested on the seventh day. When the boy grows up he is called a husband, and then he stops wading and stays out nights, but a grew-up girl is a widow and keeps house.

THE SPEED OF BIRDS.

The speed of pigeons and of birds in general has been much discussed in recent times by different zoologists. Many authors are inclined to give too high figures. Thus according to Spallanzani the speed of the martin is fixed at 290 feet per second, and that of the pigeon (estimated from a flight of four from Paris to Budapest) at 155 feet per second. But these figures appear to be erroneous. An interesting experiment, reported by Ciel et Terre, has just been made at Anvers by Mr. A. Verschuren, on the subject of the speed of swallows. Having succeeded in capturing one of these birds, he marked it and gave it in charge of a train that started from Compiègne on the 16th of May, with 250 carrier pigeons belonging to the Federation Colombophile. The swallow was set free on the 17th of May at seven o'clock in the morning along with the pigeons, and as quick as flash, took a northerly direction, while the pigeons were still describing numerous spirals in search of their direction. Attwenty-three minutes past eight the bird made its appearance in Anvers and hastened to seek its nest. The first pigeons did not enter their cote till half-past eleven. The swallow had made

the 140 mile trip in one hour and eight minutes, say at a speed of 120 miles an hour or about 190 feet per second. The pigeon attained a speed of but 35 miles an hour or 50 feet a second. Such speed, nearly 200 feet a second, gives us an idea of the rapidity with which the swallows are capable of accomplishing their migrations. To reach Belgium from the north of Africa, for example, it would take them scarcely half a day.

FINNIGIN AND FLANNIGAN.

Superintindint wuz Flannigan ;
Boss av the siction wuz Finnigin ;
Whiniver the kyars got offen the thrack,
An' muddled up things t' th' devil and back,
Finnigin writ to Flannigan,
Aftther the wrick wuz all on agin ;
That is, this Finnigin
Reported to Flannigan.
Whin Finnigin furst writ to Flannigan,
He writed tin pages—did Finnigin,
An' he tould jist how the smash occurred ;
Full minny a tajus, blunderin' wurred
Did Finnigin write to Flannigan
Aftther the kyars had gone on again ;
That wuz how Finnigin
Reported to Flannigan.
Now Flannigan knowed more than Finnigin—
He'd more idjucation—had Flannigan ;
An' it wore'm clane an' complately out,
To tell what Finnigin writ about
In his writin' to Muster Flannigan.
So he writed back to Finnigin ;
"Don't do such a sin agin ;
Make 'em brief, Finnigin !"
When Finnigin got this from Flannigan,
He blushed rosy red—did Finnigin ;
An' he said : "I'll gamble a whole month's pa-ay
That it'll be manny and manny a da-ay