Question Drawer.

All questions for this department, like all communications for any other department of THE fournAL, must be authenticated with the name and address of the writer, and must be written an one side of the paper only. Questions should also be classified according to the submatical, the Scientific, and the general information departments should be written on separate stips, so that each set may be forwarded to the Editor of the particular department. If you wish prompt answers to questions, please observe these rules.

NORWICH.—We cannot, at present, obtain authoritative information to enable us to answer your question.

C.S.—Copies of the time-tables can, no doubt, be seen on application to any Public School principal. They would occupy too much of our space.

R.A.H.—There will be no paper on Agriculture, unless, perhaps, on special request. It is at present optional. A fee of one dollar may be charged by the County Council in the case of county pupils, or by the High School Board in the case of other candidates.

L.A.F.—(1) This belongs to the English department, to which it has been referred, but answer cannot be given in this number. (2 and 3) We have repeatedly been asked questions about "Main slant," "Connective slant," principles, etc., in writing, which we cannot answer. We are not aware that any such principles exist, or, which is the same thing, have been agreed on. Many teachers prefer the vertical system, and, we believe, use it. As the Education Department prescribes no particular system or text-book in writing, it would seem that no such questions should be set by examiners.

Literary Hotes.

"Some Thoughts on Canada" is the title of an interesting article by the Marquis of Lorne in the June number of the North American Review.

"England, Venezuela, and the Monroe Doctrine," is trenchantly discussed in the June number of the North American Review by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts, who maintains that the Monroe doctrine should be established at once, in order to put an end to Great Britain's territorial aggressions in South America.

Herbert Spencer has a second article of his series on Professional Institutions in *The Popular Science Monthly* for June, in which he will trace the evolution of the professions of the physician and surgeon. These professions, which have been now united and again separate, have a common origin in the function of the primitive medicine man, who is generally identical with the primitive priest.

Under the title, "William Shakespeare : His Mark," William Cecil Elam, in the June Lippincott, shows how largely the speech of illiterate Virginians is that of the corresponding class in England near three centuries ago, as preserved by the great dramatist. In "The Tyranny of the Pictorial," Sidney Fairfield exposes one of the most prominent fads of the day. He complains that pictures, especially of women, occupy too largely the place of reading matter ; and all who are familiar with our illustrated papers and magazines—as who is not?—must admit that he hits the mark.

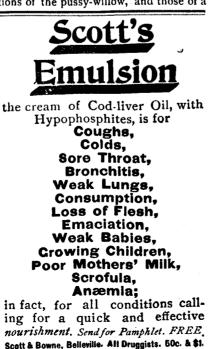
It will interest our readers to learn that Dr. A. S. Johnson, editor of *Current History*, the well-known quarterly review published at Buffalo, N.Y., is a Canadian by birth, a graduate of the University of

Toronto. After serving as Fellow in University College under the late Prof. Young, and as Instructor in Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., under Prof. (now President) Schurman, he became identified with the starting of the unique and valuable magazine, which, under his editorial management, has come to be recognized in all parts of the world by scholars and public men as a valuable work of reference on all questions of present or recent interest.

The Editor of the *Review of Reviews*, in his running comment on "The Progress of the World" in the June number, reviews the Cuban situation and England's Nicaraguan relations at some length; he also summarizes the probable results of peace in the far East. Other international matters which receive attention in the editorial pages of the *Review* are the relief of Chitral, German and Austrian politics, France and the Nile, the new Speaker of the British House of Commons, elections in Greece and Denmark, the Pope's Encyclical to England, and the school question in Manitoba. On the side of home politics, considerable space is devoted to the silver controversy, the annulment of the income tax, and the prospects of civil service reform.

"Children's Sunday," is the subject of H. P. Barnes' beautiful frontispiece to the June *Babyland*—a farmhouse landscape with two pretty little girls and their grandmother starting away to church. "The Kind Little Cat," is the opening story with four pictures. A charming poem by Everard Jack Appleton, "Do You S'pose,?" has a picture of the "Small Boy," who seems stunned by the catalogue of his little sins against his parents. The Marching Play is "The Wild Hare," and to wear the long "bunnyears" will delight the little ones of the nursery and kindergarten. In Mrs. Pratt's serial, "The House of the Grandmothers," the little blue-eyed heroine is evidently contemplating an adventure all by herself. The "Nimble Pennies" turn into a plump Poll Parrot. 50 cents a year, 5 cents a number. Specimen (back number) free. Alpha Publishing Company, Boston.

In the June number of *Little Men and Women*, Mrs. Cora Stuart Wheeler has an account of the way the Boston children study plant-life in their school-gardens, and gives two of their written plant descriptions : a little primary boy's observations of the pussy-willow, and those of a



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seventh-grade pupil on a Balm of Gilead twig during the month of March, accompanied by his drawings; there is also a picture of a class at work in the "garden" of the George Putnam School. A good story by Everard Jack Appleton is entitled "The Boy from the Circus." In Sophie Swett's serial, "Polly and the Other Girl," the two young heroines get possession of a circus pony. In the "American Dog Abroad," serial, Tony meets with a gipsy's dog. In Mr. Thomson's "Great Cats" series, the leopard story is entitled "How Mbengo Earned his Knife." The Doll Dressmaking lesson is on doll gowns with guimpes. Miss Emilie Poulsson contributes "The Ballad of a Bumptious Boy," with four pictures by Frank C. Drake. "Peterkin" rehearses his part as a Firefly for the coming "Poetry Party." \$1.00 a year, 10 cents a number. Specimen (back number) free. Alpha Publishing Company, Boston.

Book Motices.

HOMEMADE APPARATUS. By John F. Woodhull. Kellogg & Co., New York and Chicago, 45c.

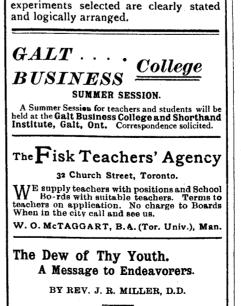
Teachers very often say that they would like to teach physics and chemistry experimentally, but they have no apparatus. Mr. Woodhull has made an excellent beginning in trying to solve this real difficulty. The book is full of valuable suggestions, is well illustrated, and should find a place in the equipment of every science teacher.

GUIDES FOR SCIENCE TEACHING, NO. XVI. First Lessons in Chemistry. By G. P. Phœnix. Price 20c. D. C. Heath & Co., Boston.

Every public school teacher who wishes to make his pupils do a little real thinking about the common objects around them should have a copy of this little guide. The apparatus will cost less than \$2, with which over forty experiments may be carried out.

FIRST LESSONS IN ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM. By Maycock. Whittaker & Co., London. Price 25. 6d.

This book is intended as an introduction to such works as the elementary text-book by Silvanus Thompson. Mr. Maycock treats of the subject in a clear and comprehensive manner, so that the dullest student must understand. The experiments selected are clearly stated and logically arranged.



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