

Over the bed of a darling's rest
Are dropping a mother's tear.

We've a new brick schoolhouse, stiff and tall,
The front threeslegged with columns white,
And elbowed into the street by a wall;
While squash and cabbage usurp the site
Of the former, as if there by right,—
The old heads done in small!
But sooth if I were a boy, as then,
I would long to see the old hut back;
My heart would sigh for each dear old crack,
And my jack-knife burn for a place to hack,
Though for hacking it burned again.

REVIEWS.

The annual report of the superintendent of schools for the State of Wisconsin for the year ending August 31, 1881 has just come to hand. According to him a survey of the educational movements of the State shows that improvements have been secured in the following points: (1) a steady and healthful advancement in all grades of schools and methods of school work; (2) a more manifest expression of the spirit of harmony and earnest zeal in the management and teaching of schools; (3) a more general and decided recognition of the prominent defects in the public school system and greater willingness to remedy these defects; (4) a growing sentiment in some sections in favour of employing teachers with better qualifications, and for longer terms; (5) an increased and more uniform attendance of pupils; (6) a wider dissemination of the most reliable information about hygienic laws as applied to the construction of school houses, the oversight of school grounds, and the care of children while in school; (7) a marked progress in the methods of classifying and instructing the pupils in ungraded country schools.

AN ETYMOLOGY OF LATIN AND GREEK. By C. S. Halsey, M.A.; Boston, Ginn, Heath & Co.—Our first impressions of this work are that it is admirably adapted to the object in view—that of “presenting, within the limits of a school-book, the most needful etymological information, that is not adequately furnished by the grammar or the lexicon.” It is well known that according to ordinary methods of classical instruction no systematic knowledge of etymology is obtained. We believe that this book meets a felt want in this direction. The advantages of comparative philology or historical etymology cannot be attained merely through the use of grammar and lexicon. Here, however, is a work that “gives the original and central meaning of related words, and, gathering the words themselves together, unites them by the natural bond of their common origin.” A comparison such as is here given tends not only to reveal new and interesting truth, but develops the mind and stimulates it to further investigations in this department of study. The book is got up in the excellent style so characteristic of this firm.

Poems, Songs and Odes is the title of a small volume published by the author, A. McAlpine Taylor, now headmaster of the Ingersoll model school. Such an undertaking argues on the author's part no small amount of courage in the face of the little patronage such productions have always received in Canada. There are many fine thoughts in the poems and many of them are admirably expressed, but there are also defects which might have been avoided had the *M. S.* been submitted before publication to some candid and intelligent friend. No author ever made a high reputation by trusting to the indulgence of the public. The better plan is to see that the article placed before his readers is as little open to adverse criticism as possible.

Roget's “Thesaurus” is one of the best known works on the use of the English language and one of the most useful. It is needless to introduce here any description of a work which is to be found in every well-equipped study especially when the proprietor's occupation is either translation or original composition. It will serve a much better purpose to endeavour to give some idea of the difference between the edition just published and the

first edition which was issued in 1852. Dr. Roget's original collection of synonyms was the result of fifty years' observation and work. The latest edition prior to the one now before us was issued in 1855, and though the collection was at that time a very full one, the lapse of years and the growth of the language made it inevitable that it should fall behind the times. The work of preparing this revised edition has been undertaken and carried out by Dr. Roget's son who has had the advantage of his father's memoranda and also of other valuable assistance. The general arrangement of the “Thesaurus” is that of a series of categories, each made up of a word, representing a leading idea, and other words representing ideas more or less closely related to it. It is evident that many words must logically appear in more than one category, and as this would tend to make the book inconveniently large the editor has adopted the plan of substituting references to places where words have been inserted instead of repeating the words themselves. One of the important features of this revised edition is a better classification of the ideas included in the categories. The index has been considerably elaborated and now forms a peculiarly valuable vocabulary of nearly 300 pages.

Dr. Hodgson's work* is one of those ingenious and scholarly treatises which are a source of delight to the student apart altogether from their utility. It is not intended to supersede the use of “formal helps to English composition,” but rather to show those who want to write good English how to avoid errors of the more subtle kind in the use of words. No mere description of the author's method would give so good an idea of the work as a specimen of his mode of dealing with misused words. Take for instance the preposition “between”:

Quality is the fundamental notion of “between,” which cannot therefore correctly be employed with more than two objects of reference or without the two objects being clearly indicated . . . Instances of “between” with more than two objects are:

“Between the offences of blasphemy, hypocrisy, and perjury, and partaking of the guilt of all three, lies that of apostasy.” MISS CORBE, *Intuitive Morals*.

“Paxriteles is said to have definitively given the character of sensuality to Venus who had previously floated between several ideals of beauty.”

LECKY, *History of Rationalism*.

“Stirring up at the same time no little ill-will between the various races—English, French, Scotch, and Irish—who inhabited Canada.” *Westminster Review*.

“Where between every stitch she could look up and see what was going on in the street.” MRS. GASKELL, *Mr. Harrison's Confessions*.

“The statement is dovetailed in between an attack on aristocratic converts to Rome and young men in business who attend Ritualist ceremonial.” *Saturday Review*.

“If he does not distinguish between the province of reason and emotion—the most difficult of philosophical problems—he keeps clear of the cruder mysticism.”

LESLIE STEPHEN, *Hours in a Library*.

Of course the author indicates how the errors in his specimens of bad English are to be corrected, and his remarks on the correct use of words are nearly always unexceptionable and are often peculiarly instructive. The work is arranged in parts, the first of which contains in alphabetical order spurious words and words used with other meanings than their own; the second deals with blunders in the forms of words; the third treats of errors in arrangement and collocation; and the fourth discusses instances of confusion of thought and expression. In other words the four departments of the book deal with vocabulary, accident, syntax, and rhetoric respectively.

MAGAZINES.

NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.—In the number for June, Senator W. B. Allison has a paper on “The Currency of the Future” in which he indicates the measures that will have to be taken by Congress for insuring a stable currency after the national debt has been extinguished. “A memorandum at a venture,” by Walt Whitman, is an explanation of his purpose and point of view in trenching upon topics not usually regarded as amenable to literary treatment. “Andover and Creed Subscription,” by Rev. Dr. Leonard Woolsey Bacon, is a philosophical review of the present state of dogmatic belief in the churches. Hon. George F. Seaward, late minister to China, in an article entitled “Mongolian Immigration,” makes an argument against anti-Chinese legislation. Dr. John W. Dowling, Dean of the New York Homeopathic medical college, comes to the defence of the Hahnemannian school of medicine against a recent attack upon its principles and methods. O. B. Frothingham has a sympathetic article on Swedenborg. Not the least important paper is one entitled “Has Land a Value,” by Isaac L. Rice, it being a criticism of one of the fundamental postulates of Henry George's political economy. Finally, Charles F. Leydecker essays to prove that a “National Militia” is a constitutional impossibility.

THE DAY OF REST has been received. It contains a variety of articles on a number of subjects, and will interest its readers.

*Errors in the use of English. By the late Wm. B. Hodgson, LL.D., Professor of Political Economy in the University of Edinburgh. New York, D. Appleton & Co, Toronto, Willing & Williamson.