

## Boys' and Girls' Department.

"Live Pure: Speak True: Right Wrong!"

**L**AST week I heard a fine lecture on the "New Conchology" given by Mr. Bryant Walker, a prominent Detroit lawyer. The word 'conchology' is an interesting one and those of our students who do not know it, will be amply repaid by looking up the derivation in the dictionary. When the meaning of the word is clear, I think we shall be inclined to turn to "Conchology" in the Encyclopædia.

\*\*\*  
Having become familiar with the parts of the shell, we shall want to know something about the animals that live in those beautiful homes.

Mr. Walker took up the study of conchology as a relaxation from the duties of his profession, and he is now considered one of the best authorities in this country on fresh water and land shells. So those of us studying physical geography conchology will be a delightful study. Many points in the history of the structure and former physical conditions the earth that geology cannot completely prove, have been made clear by a study of conchology.

Unlike many of the sciences conchology offers no extraordinary difficulties to the beginner. As an out-of-doors study, it is equally as fascinating as botany, or ornithology. It is hoped that in a short time the State of New York may be induced to make provisions for a systematic study of the shells and shell formations in the state. At present, Michigan is the only State

where such government action has been taken.

\*\*\*  
Speaking of Ornithology reminds me that the study of birds is one that our boys and girls ought to like. Of course, the country is the best place to study birds; but, the suburbs and those sections of the city near large parks, offer every opportunity.

Last summer, a class of High School boys and girls, accompanied by their teacher, wheeled out to the park, several times a week. Reaching the park shortly after sunrise, they succeeded in gaining a surprising amount of knowledge concerning the various birds. With cameras and kodaks, they were able to get good pictures of their feathered friends, which were often used by the principal in his weekly talks about birds.

Aside from the pleasure and knowledge derived from this study, it has been remarked that children interested in bird study never rob a nest of its eggs. Instead, they watch with earnestness the daily lives of the parent birds, who are not more delighted than their boy and girl friends, when the shells open, and the young birds clamor for food.

\*\*\*  
Have you ever tried to draw pictures of the birds we see every day? The drawings filled in with the colors peculiar to each bird, help wonderfully to make us alert to every detail in the birds' costumes. These drawings help too, to strengthen our faculty for ob-