

RECENT BOOKS.

A new book on nature study, the major part of which is written by Dr. John Brittain, of the Macdonald College, Quebec, has just been published, entitled *Elementary Agriculture and Nature Study*. An introduction is contributed by Dr. J. W. Robertson, and there are supplementary articles on Fruit Raising, by Martin Burrell, M. P.; on Irrigation, by H. W. E. Canavan, C. E.; and on the Physics of Some Common Tools, by Carleton J. Lynde, Ph. D., of the Macdonald College. The book has been prescribed for use in the schools in British Columbia, but it may serve as a very useful work for foundation study in agriculture elsewhere. The analysis of subjects, with experiments and suggestions, in the outline lessons by Dr. Brittain are admirably suited for the schoolroom, and teachers will welcome this latest work from him. An eastern edition of this book is being prepared dealing with fruit culture and agriculture of the Maritime Provinces. (Messrs. W. J. Gage & Company, Toronto).

Manley's *English Prose*, a companion book to that excellent anthology, Manley's "English Poetry," has just been published. It is intended for a general survey of English prose literature from the Anglo-Saxon chronicle to the present time, and its selections are so well chosen that it presents a very excellent compendium of material for the student in special courses, as well as for the general reader who would be informed of the content of general English literature. The selections are not scrappy, but made up in generous portions from the authors quoted, which, of course, requires that many writers be omitted whom the reader might expect to find included in the volume. The book is provided with an index of authors, titles and sub-titles. (Cloth, pages xix+544, mailing price \$1.70. Ginn & Company, Boston).

A pretty little book and daintily illustrated is the *Children's Calendar* (price 3s, postage 3d.), providing a seasonal series of songs, games and recitations for every month of the year, except August. Each month has an original song with music specially composed, a game based on the song, a recitation and appropriate occupations, with outlines for nature study lessons, etc., and seasonal quotations from the poets. The book is intended to aid teachers in preparing suitable nature lessons for young children. (Geo. Philip & Son, 32 Fleet Street, London).

Philips' *Primary Atlas of the British Empire* (price 1s.) has been specially prepared to accompany the series of Imperial text-books now being used under the direction of the League of the Empire. For each of the great natural divisions of the Empire maps are given illustrating summer and winter climatic conditions, regional vegetation, distribution of population, general physical and political features; sea and ocean charts showing ocean highways and routes of travel; and a set of historical maps illustrating the expansion of the British Empire. (Geo. Philip & Son, 32 Fleet Street, London).

To develop the faculties of students rather than to accumulate facts is the purpose of the wise teacher. *An Elementary Course in Practical Science* (Parts I and II, price 6d. each) aims to do this by providing a series of exercises in practical work for pupils. Part I deals with length, area, volume, weight and density; Part II with mensuration, density and specific gravity, atmospheric pressure and heat. (Geo. Philip & Son, 32 Fleet Street, London).

Hicks's *Champion Spelling Book* was prepared in direct response to the cry of business men in general, "The boys sent to us from the public schools do not know how to spell!" It embodies the method of teaching spelling which after two years' use enabled the pupils of the Cleveland schools to win the victory in the National Education Association spelling contests of 1908. It covers six school years, from the third to the eighth inclusive, and contains about 6,000 words in all. Of these, 1,800 are selected for intensive study, two being made prominent in each lesson. The subordinate words are arranged in helpful groupings. Systematic reviews, and frequent oral and written spelling contests, are provided for throughout. (Cloth, pages 238, price 25 cents. The American Book Company, New York; Morang Educational Company, Toronto).

In Guerber's *Easy French Prose Composition* the principle of constant repetition is applied throughout the exercises, which give ample practice in a steadily enlarging vocabulary. The material used is simple and familiar. (Cloth, pages 91, price 25 cents. American Book Company, New York; Morang Educational Co., Toronto).

Abridgments of J. Fenimore Cooper's *Last of the Mohicans* and *Adventures of Pathfinder* have been published in form suitable for pupils. All lengthy descriptions, tedious conversations and other unnecessary details have been carefully omitted. Cooper's own words and the atmosphere of the original story have been retained wherever possible. (Cloth, price 35 cents each. The American Book Company, New York; Morang Educational Company, Toronto).

OFFICIAL NOTICES.

Reg. 20, Section 2, has been amended to read as follows:

2. *Vacations.*—(a) There shall be in all schools, except as hereinafter provided, a summer vacation of eight weeks, beginning on the first day of July, and a winter vacation of two weeks, beginning on the Saturday preceding the week in which Christmas falls.

(b) When the last day of the summer vacation falls upon Thursday or Friday, the following Monday shall be the first teaching day of the next term.

(c) On the application of the Board of Trustees of any district in which special conditions exist, the inspector may permit a part or the whole of the summer vacation to be taken at another time. In such cases the inspector