

SHE was in the class beginning Virgil, and having given her rendering of the first lines in Book 1st., was asked for the principal parts of the verb *cano*, she repeated them, but hardly had the infinitive *canere* crossed her lips, when a smile spread over her countenance and she exclaimed, "oh, that's why singing birds are called canaries!"

THE O'Neil *Tableaux* on the evening of the sixth of this month, was quite a success. The "Fairy Fortune Teller," was about the most striking and pretty of the pictures. The posturing and dresses were very good, but could not quite make up for the defects in scenery, however the performance was highly creditable to those engaged in it.

LAST Wednesday, all our students had the pleasure of attending an illustrated lecture, delivered by Prof. Wright, for the especial benefit of his class in astronomy. The illustrations presented by means of the Magic Lantern, were in themselves most interesting, and were rendered quite amusing by the occasional witty sallies of the enthusiastic Professor.

IT was at a supper on a Saturday evening, not long since, and the oysters were served *Sortant de leur coquille*; when some one remarked—"really, it is sometimes so awkward eating these large ones whole," and was proceeding to relate an experience of the kind, her neighbor retorted—"do you mean to insinuate that you have ever seen oysters too large for your mouth."

TUESDAY afternoon and evening Miss Dods delivered the concluding lectures of the course which she has been for some time conducting, under the auspices of the Alumnae of the W. F. College. The lectures have been well attended throughout, and the result is highly satisfactory to those interested. Miss Dods left yesterday for London, where she will conduct classes. She is accompanied by her sister, who assisted her during her lectures in this city. She carries with her the best wishes of her Hamilton class.—*Spectator*.

TOWARDS the close of last month our students had the pleasure of attending a course of exceedingly interesting and instructive lectures on science, given in the Mechanics' Hall by Prof. Richards. His subject was treated of under three heads, to each of which he devoted an evening. The first and

grandest topic was that of "Oxygen; or, The Matter King," and the whole lecture was rendered delightfully simple by a series of experiments, closing with a grand display of phosphoric glow, or the mock sun. The second lecture was on "Hydrogen; or, The Matter Queen," while the third and last was wholly devoted to experiments in "Electricity," and was fully as interesting and wonderful as the preceding ones had been. A matinee was also given, intended chiefly for children, by whom it was liberally patronized. These lectures were an unexpected intellectual treat to our students, and have endeared the subjects of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry to many who before regarded them with ignorant indifference.

DIVERSITIES OF HUMOR.

IN the olden days, physicians professed to have found, while anatomizing bodies, a vein particularly devoted to mirth; any commotion in the blood of this vein being instantly followed by uncontrollable laughter.

Tasso's "Ardoneo," met his death by a lance,—

"Which pierced him through the vein
Where laughter has her fountain and her seat;
So that (a dreadful bane),
He laughed from pain and laughed himself to death."

According to this belief of the ancients, the mind received its prevailing tone from the amount of moisture in that particular vein, and the chief characteristics of the "ego" depended on the temperature of the body.

The word *humor* has been much modified and restricted by the enlightenment of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; our best lexicographers now defining it as "general temper," "fancy," "freak," etc., classifying it as comic or serious. Pope says "it is a quick conception and an easy deliverance." Some consider its chief essence to be a serio-jocoseness; others found it with wit, placing the two words in juxtaposition, we find them so various as to make it difficult to include them within the circle of a precise definition. Humor is less poignant and brilliant, and also less offensive than wit. The former savors too highly of mock gravity; the latter is too