

their interest in it "narrowed down to the limits of passing this or that standard, earning such and such a grant, carrying out, in other words, the technical requirements of a technical Code." Under his view the instruction given in church is as much a portion of real education as is the instruction given to children in school.—*The School Guardian*.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.—It is not so much money as faith, and skill, and earnestness that are wanting. Let the work of religious education be once thoroughly organised, and the public will regard it with less apathy. And the more thorough education of the young in spiritual things will result in much heartier support of the churches in the no distant future. If instead of lamenting the neglect of religious education, and slandering the state system, as is too generally done, those who ought to see to the training of the young in spiritual matters would set about doing the work systematically, and organizing machinery for it, it would be far bet-

ter for the churches themselves and for the Colony.—*The Schoolmaster*.

LITERATURE: Mr. Craik, the accomplished Secretary to the Scottish Education Department, in opening a new Board school in Edinburgh last week, made some pertinent and forcible remarks on education. He was, perhaps, unnecessarily severe on bookstalls, and the modern school of criticism, but what he said about the teaching of literature in schools deserves the attention of all concerned in the instruction of the young. He complained, and complained with justice, that on the literary side education is too often a mere matter of names, dates, and titles of books. "Let the teachers," said Mr. Craik, "give some knowledge, however little, of the spirit of the author, some understanding of his genius, some feeling of why it was that they did and ought to enjoy him, and why he was thought worthy of being read and remembered. Above all, let them be given an intellectual position and a standard of sound discriminating taste."—*The Publisher's Circular*.

GEOGRAPHY.

POTOSI.—The richest region of the world is probably the Mountain of Potosi. The name signifies "an eruption of silver," and is justified by the abundance of the precious metal it contains. Over five thousand tunnels and openings have been made into it, and each of these has produced gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, tin, quicksilver, zinc, antimony, or some other valuable material; but silver in by far the greatest profusion. The silver is so plentiful indeed that, though gold is present, it has been hardly worked at all, as it is more difficult to procure it by the processes

in vogue in the district.—*School mistress*.

THE ATMOSPHERE OF MARS.—To sum up, now, what we know about the atmosphere of Mars: we have proof positive that Mars has an atmosphere; we have reason to believe that this atmosphere is very thin,—thinner at least by half than the air upon the summit of the Himalayas,—that in constitution it does not differ greatly from our own, and that it is relatively heavily charged with water vapor.—*Percival Lowell in the Atlantic Monthly*.