

question. As a matter of fact very satisfactory answers have been given by students whose knowledge of chemical manipulation was derived from books and observation.

Although the author in his preface tells us that it has not been his desire "to adopt a mechanical method of question and answer, but, except in special cases, simply to assist the student in finding the answer for himself by directing him to the paragraphs where they will be found," he has given very elaborate solutions where they are unnecessary from any point of view, and has in some cases withheld help where it might reasonably be expected. As cases in point, we would refer amongst others to the solutions to 7, p. 172, and 1, p. 178, where an exemplification of the principle is all that is called for. No. 42, p. 196, is answered by referring to par. 37, where, we may say, the subject of *radicals* is imperfectly treated. By answering this question in detail Mr. Findlay might have given the subject a clearness it does not there possess. Some of the solutions are evidently incorrect. The answer to (3), 3, p. 179 is not the weight of the *commercial acid*; in (1), 2, p. 181, the volume of the O should be deduced from the conditions of the problem, and not from what is proved in par. 98; the answer to 3 in the same page is somewhat peculiar—Ammonia is neither nitric acid nor a nitrate; and to conclude, the answer to 33, p. 192 does not cover the ground intended; for the meaning at one time given to HO is not therein explained. When an author undertakes to solve a problem his answer should be a model of accuracy and of style. This requirement is not fulfilled in all cases in this collection.

We have spoken out plainly in reference to this manual. While we have called attention to some of its defects, we have done so in no censorious spirit. The book contains a great deal of valuable information and is in many respects creditable to the author; but if we are to succeed in our new-born zeal for native literature, we must set before us a high standard of excellence. The mistakes pointed out are not of so serious a nature as to materially affect the usefulness of the

book as a whole; and we, therefore, hope that when the work reaches a second edition Mr. Findlay will avail himself of a criticism which has been penned in no unfriendly spirit.

MISTAKES IN TEACHING, by J. L. Hughes, Inspector of Public Schools, Toronto.

ATTENTION: HOW TO SECURE AND RETAIN, by the same. W. J. Gage & Co.'s Educational Series. Toronto, 1880.

WE are a little at a loss to imagine to whom Mr. Hughes supposes these manuals will prove of any service. We should think that the teachers of the Province were at least competent to elaborate sufficient commonplaces for home consumption, without needing to buy them in bulk. Certainly we should be disappointed if we found that any of the profession were under the delusion that commonplaces ceased to merit that homely name when honoured with the *imprimatur* of a Public School Inspector, and forming part of a so-called educational series. The style of information given may be inferred from the following:

"It is a mistake for a teacher to stand on his head during lessons. Although this practice may not strike every one as being necessarily a mistake, yet a little consideration will lead the candid reader to decidedly condemn it as such. It is true that it has a marked effect in riveting the attention of the scholars, but this effect is not a permanent one, and the gaining of the attention does not, in this instance, conduce to any distinctively educational aim. On the whole we would suggest, but without laying down any positive rule, that the exigencies of discipline require the teacher to do what standing on his head he finds *absolutely* necessary during recess, or at least behind a door. . . ."

We have omitted to make a note of the page on which this very necessary caution is to be found,—perhaps we dreamt it when dozing over the pages which are full of warnings quite as much uncalled for as this.

In the manual on Attention (which, by the way, contains much of the Mistaken Manual hashed up over again), our eye was