

15. Utilize all available competitions for your classes. The stimulus of prizes and rewards is universally needed in every walk of life, more particularly in a juvenile writing class.

16. Make a special study of any hopelessly bad writers; never despair of entirely reforming such.

17. Post the names of the best writers and most intelligent writers on the walls of the class or school-room.

18. Caution the class against plunging pens to the bottom of the inkwells.

19. Guard against writing too long at once; relieve by rests in which theory may be illustrated upon the blackboard.

20. In writing, more than in any other subject, strive to keep the pupils in good humor.—*The Theory and Practice of Handwriting.*

QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

S. B. A.—Could you tell me where to get help on Current History? Are there quarterly or monthly Current Histories published? If so, where are they to be had?

The best magazine that we know of is *The Cyclopedic Review of Current History*, published quarterly, by Garretson, Cox & Co., Buffalo, N. Y. Price \$1.50 per annum; single copies, 40 cents.

A. D. J.—Will you please tell me the names of the following birds:

1. A bird eight inches long, back and head dark drab, wings brown, darker next body, light drab underneath, tail brown, tips of most of tail feathers white, breast and most of under part of body light grey, with wavy tints of darker shade, upper side of bill hooked, longer than lower, legs black.

2. Saw a bird in a spruce swamp that had a great deal of red on it; smaller than a robin.

3. What is the proper name of (1) Woodpecker, with red on top of head, and (2) one with black.

4. Sea Gulls with very dark wings, with just a greyish tinge on wings.

5. Have we more than one species of mice? Caught one that was all white underneath, including feet and tail.

ANSWERS.

1. Perhaps *Lanius borealis*, the "Great Northern Shrike," or Butcher Bird." Generally about ten inches long.

2. Perhaps *Setophaga ruticilla*, the "American Redstart." See ED. REVIEW, September, 1895, page 67.

3. The males of both the "Hairy" and "Downy" Woodpeckers have the red patch on the back of the head, while the females are without it. See ED. REVIEW, January, 1893.

4. The *Larus marinus*, "Great Black-backed Gull," has a slaty black back and wings. The greyish tinged one might be one of many—the "American Herring Gull," etc., etc.

5. We have several species of mice, namely: (1) The Jumping Mouse; (2) The Common Mouse; (3) The White-footed Mouse; (4) The Hamster Mouse; (5) Gapper's Field Mouse; (6) The Meadow Field Mouse.

Jaculus Hudsonius (No. 1 above) is described briefly as follows: Head and body about three inches, and tail about five inches long. Color above light yellowish brown, lined finely with black. Sides yellow rusty.

Beneath pure white. It has been seen to leap from ten to twelve feet in one bound,

Hesperomys leucopus (No. 3 above). Body over three inches long, tail over three inches. Above yellowish brown, beneath whitish. Jumps like No. 1. Great migratory droves of them were observed south of Lake Erie near the beginning of the century—before 1805. Probably the species causing the great mouse plague of 1816 in northern Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, although it may be the Meadow Field Mouse, or one of the other species, for all the description we have of them.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

The teachers of Charlottetown, P. E. I., have organized the local institute for the winter term. An energetic committee has been appointed, and a good programme prepared for the season's work.

Summerside, P. E. I., has its local institute again at work. The teachers there are entering heartily into the work of the institute and a profitable session is anticipated.

Miss Anna K. Miller, teacher at Willow Grove, St. John County, has raised the sum of \$23.50 with which to improve her school furniture and apparatus.

Miss Mary B. Conley, teacher at Black's Harbor, Charlotte County, has, by means of an entertainment, obtained nearly \$20 with which it is proposed to purchase new furniture.

The meeting of the Executive of the N. B. Provincial Teachers' Institute will be held in the Normal School Library, Fredericton, on Thursday, January 2, at 8 p. m.

The semi-annual conference of the Chief Superintendent with the Inspectors of N. B. will be held in Fredericton, January 3, at 10 a. m.

Inspector Carter will be engaged with the schools of St. John County and the high schools during December. He will begin his work in Charlotte County as early in January as travelling permits.

Charlottetown schools close for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday, the 24th inst., and re-open on Monday, January 6th.

Miss Louise Laird has been appointed to a position in the Charlottetown schools. Engagement to commence with the first of the year.

At the Friday meetings of the Amherst teachers, in addition to the discussion of points relating to the general work of the school, the study of French by the conversational method has been begun, and in English, the study of some of Tennyson's poems. Locksley Hall is the one under consideration at present.

The Literary Society of Amherst, in which all the teachers are active workers, has this winter taken up the study of American history. Papers have been read on the early discoveries, on the aboriginals, their character, customs, religion and probable origin, and now