

ness of the thing should appeal to the school board as well as the town council." The increase has been granted.

The fine new building of the Maritime Business College, Halifax, which was described in the REVIEW of June last, was the scene of a very pleasant social function on Friday evening, Dec. 20th, when the first Christmas closing, held in the new building, took place. The rooms were handsomely furnished and decorated for the occasion and the "At Home" was declared to be the most successful that has marked these annual gatherings. Diplomas and prizes were awarded to successful students.

The formal opening of the fine new school building at Middle Sackville, took place on Friday afternoon, Dec. 20. Addresses were delivered by Premier Robinson, Dr. J. R. Inch, Chief Superintendent of Education, Inspector O'Blenes, Dr. Andrews, and Mr. T. B. Kidner, Director of manual training. The building is pronounced creditable to the enterprise of the people of Middle Sackville. Mr. F. S. James, B. A., is the principal of the school.

Halifax will require nearly \$154,000 to maintain the schools of that city the coming year—\$16,000 more than last year.

The board of education of New Brunswick is instituting an enquiry into the feasibility of introducing technical schools in the manufacturing centres of the province.

Principal W. F. McLean, of the Harcourt Superior School, has been appointed assistant teacher of manual training in the Provincial Normal School at Fredericton.

The report of Supt. Fraser, of the School for the Blind, Halifax, shows that 168 persons have been under instruction during the past year, 97 males and 71 females. During the current year a course of training for newspaper work will be established. Several years ago a commercial course was begun, and this was the first time anything of the kind had been introduced in any school for the blind. Since then the leading institutions in the United States and Europe have adopted Dr. Fraser's methods.

Reports from several counties of Nova Scotia, such as Cumberland and Colchester, and Kings County, New Brunswick, where a scarcity of teachers prevailed for several years show that more schools were in operation during the past term than for some time past.

A movement has been made in St. John to amend the school law so as to permit the trustees to furnish free school books to the pupils in that city.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Mr. Howard Trueman's recent book on *Early Agriculture in the Atlantic Provinces* will attract many interested readers. It is the work of a man whose busy brain has not ceased its activity after a strenuous life on the farm, but who has put into a permanent form in his later life the steps through which agricultural development has passed. Professor Andrews, of Mount Allison, contributes a concise and suggestively written introduction. There are portraits of Hon. John Young, the "Agricola" of Nova Scotia, Col. Wm. Blair of Truro, Hon. L. P. Farris, Commissioner for Agriculture for New Brunswick, Senator W. D. Perley, Professor M. Cumming, the author, and a few others.

A manual of exercises covering many phases of agriculture for teachers and students has been published by Orange Judd Company, New York, entitled *Rural School*

Agriculture (cloth, 290 pages, price \$1.00. The aim of the book is to enlist the interest of the boys and girls of the farm, and awaken in their minds the fact that the problems of the farm are great enough to command all the brain power they possess. The exercises cover many phases of agriculture, and may be used with any text-book of agriculture, or without a text-book.

Six Weeks' Preparation for Reading Caesar is an admirable little pocket volume (cloth, 105 pages, price 50 cts), published by Ginn & Company Boston. Its object is to lay a good foundation for accurate scholarship in Latin, and incidentally the value of that language in the study of English. It combines thoroughness with expedition, giving the beginner everything that is necessary, and nothing more than is necessary, for introduction to easier portions of Caesar's "Gallic War."

Moral Training in the Public Schools (Cloth, 208 pages) includes five essays, the outcome of prizes of \$500 and \$300, offered for the two best essays on the above named subject. The five essays constitute a useful volume for all who feel an interest in public schools. The clear style in which each is written and solutions of problems offered make the book a profitable one. (Ginn & Company, Boston.)

Mumfer's Text-Book in Physics (cloth, 411 pages, price \$1.20, illustrated), is thoroughly scientific and written in a clear, simple style. It is well proportioned, and emphasis is placed on physical relations, and it lays a clear foundation on the well established facts and principles of the subject. It meets equally the needs of students who are preparing for the most exacting college entrance examinations, and also those other students who are not going to college. (The American Book Company, New York; The Morang Educational Company, Toronto.)

Gray Lady and the Birds, is a series of bright attractive stories, by Mabel Osgood Wright. (Cloth, 437 pages, price \$1.50 net, with 36 illustrations, some of them in colour). These stories of the bird year begin with the fall migration. They are strikingly adapted, with the beautiful series of illustrations, to awaken an interest in bird life in the young, and, best of all, create a desire to preserve these beautiful and useful creatures. (The Macmillan Company, New York; The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto.)

American Philosophy: The Early Schools (Cloth, pages 595), by I. Woodbridge Riley, professor at the University of New Brunswick a few years ago, is published by Dood, Mead and Company, New York. It is a painstaking attempt to reconstruct a period of philosophy, a large part of which exists only in manuscript. The author has devoted three years to this laborious service while holding the Johnston Research Scholarship, at John Hopkins University, and the effort to place in each durable form a source book of American philosophy, from scattered almost accessible materials, will be appreciated by scholars.

Literature in the Elementary School (Cloth, pages 305, price \$1.00 net) discusses the kinds of literature and the elements of literature serviceable in the grades of the common schools, including the story, the choice of stories, folk-tale and fairy-story, hero tales and romances, nature and animal stories, etc. The book is highly suggestive to the teacher. (The University Press, Chicago.)

Linguistic Development and Education, by M. V. O'Shea (Cloth, pages 347, price \$1.25 net) is the result of a series