

the word "to-day" be good grammar, and the equivalent expressions "to-week," "to-month," "to-year," still current in some parts of the country, be bad grammar? And numberless similar examples could be cited. The fact is that when once the ear is accustomed to a certain turn of words, any deviation from that jars upon it and is pronounced as incorrect. The phrase that has once found its way into the every-day talk of well-bred persons next finds its way into grammars, and grammarians have to invent some new rule to account for it.—*Saturday Review*.

The "Scott" Question in Liverpool.—There has been an animated discussion at the Liverpool School Board as to whether novels should be admitted as part of the school course, and by a majority of one this question has been decided in the affirmative. The battle was fought over "Ivanhoe," and the children of Liverpool will at once make acquaintance with Rebecca and Rowena, and probably Thackeray's version with Mr. Doyle's illustrations will be read in small doses by the lower classes. The caricatures and misrepresentation in "Ivanhoe" of the Catholic Church, the distaste for more serious and interesting work produced by novel reading, were weighed in the balance against the recommendation of her Majesty's Inspector, the elevating effect of novel reading on the mind, and the suggestion that good novels might keep the children from the piratical penny novelette, and were found wanting.—*Pall Mall Budget*.

SCIENTIFIC JOTTINGS.

Two scientific men of note have recently passed away—Prof. Francis Maitland Balfour, of the University of Cambridge, and Dr. George Dickie, Professor of Botany, of the University of Aberdeen. Prof. Balfour lost his life whilst attempting the passage of the Aiguille Blanche de Pentet, one of the buttresses of Mont Blanc, in Switzerland. He was quite a young man, but yet had done a large amount of valuable original work, and was the author of a valuable work on the "Development of the Elasmobranch Fishes." He is best known, however, by his work on "Comparative Embryology." Dr. Dickie was the author of numerous papers and several books on botanical subjects, and was especially interested in the study of the Algæ.

Certain members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science have been putting on record their opinion that there is no conflict between science and religion. A manifesto drawn up by members of the Association has received no fewer than six hundred and seventeen signatures of scientists, "many of whom are investigators of the highest eminence," and "almost all are fellows or members of learned societies." "The manifesto," says an exchange, "declares positively that to cast doubt upon the revelation of Scripture is a perversion of science and that the testimony for God in Nature and that which is given in the Bible may differ, but do not contradict one another."