

will our teachers come to side with the educationist and throw the speller as a text-book out of doors, unless when it is an aid towards the force of words and not merely to their form.

MECHANICAL DRAWING, by Gardner C. Anthony, A.M., Professor of Drawing in Tufts College, and published by the Messrs. D. C. Heath & Co., Boston. As a text-book on the use of the compasses and their adjuncts, we know of none that equals this one. It has long been felt in our province that the study of Euclid should be anticipated by a study of geometrical forms and the manner of their construction. The teachers are all convinced of the necessity of such preliminary training and have lamented in our hearing the lack of a text-book that would guide them in giving such instruction. Professor Anthony has provided such a work for them, and the Committee on Text-books may be inclined to give it a footing in our province. The book is its own recommendation.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF ENGLISH FICTION, by Dr. William E. Simonds, Professor of English Literature, Knox College, and published by the Messrs. D. C. Heath, of Boston, U.S.A. Somebody has sought to get people to agree on what are the six best novels that ever were written. Dr. Simond's book may help people to approach such a limited selection, by tracing the history of the novel from the old English story-teller to the perfection of the novel as seen in our time. There are few who will not welcome Dr. Simond's effort to place before his readers, in succinct form, the story of the development of the novel. As an educative agency the novel has brought about the most remarkable effects in the improvement of manners or in the advancement of what has been sometimes ridiculed as culture. There are novels and novels, and Prof. Simonds' book will help people to select what are the novels that should be read.

ILLUSTRATIVE BLACKBOARD SKETCHING. No other power possessed by a teacher is more valuable, because it can be used in various ways to arouse the interest of the children, than facility in blackboard sketching. Many say, "There is no use of my trying to learn to draw; I have no talent." There are differences in people in this respect, but the absence of a talent for drawing is not so general as is supposed. The great thing is to pursue a right method. W. Bertha Hintz, teacher of and lecturer on methods in drawing, late of the New York Normal Art School, furnishes this in her *Illustrative Blackboard Sketching*. Any teacher who has sat in an institute and watched Miss Hintz with her crayon, filling in the details of one of these rapid sketches, could not fail to imbibe some of her enthusiasm for the work. This skill may be acquired by persistent, well-directed practice. The book contains reproductions of the author's sketches, with stories that grow as the blackboard drawings grow, and which the learner could draw for practice. The objects are fruit, birds, vegetables, pottery, etc. Many a teacher will find in this book just the help she needs. (E. L. Kellogg & Co., New York and Chicago. 30 cents.)