

should not be a pronounced success, but success will come only as a result of the hearty and prompt co-operation of the teachers of the province.

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P. D. HARRIS, Sec'y of Committee.

Reviews.

HIGH SCHOOL GRAMMAR, revised edition. By John Seath, B. A., Inspector of High Schools for Ontario. Canada Publishing Company, Toronto, Ontario.

The publication of Seath's "High School Grammar" more than a decade ago worked a new era in the teaching of English Grammar in the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes into which it was introduced as a text-book. Discarding the time-honored view that "English Grammar is the science that teaches the correct use of English" the author took the position that "while English Grammar is a science which is capable of important practical applications, it has a distinct value as a means of mental training, to which the practical applications are subordinate in a High School course of study." From this point of departure Mr. Seath proceeded to prepare a work which has had the effect of elevating grammar to a high plane, by making it a systematic study of language as the expression of thought, and thus giving it a place along with such subjects as mathematics and science as a means of mental training. In so far as the aim and general plan of the revised edition are concerned, it is similar to the first; yet in many respects the new book is much superior to the old one. Indeed this will be expected by all who know of the exceptional opportunities which the author has had of determining the merits and defects of the latter as revealed by its use as a text-book in the Collegiate Institutes and High Schools in Ontario. It is certainly fortunate that an educationist of unusual ability, wide scholarship, and ripe professional experience, such as Mr. Seath is well-known to be, has devoted time and energy to the preparation of what may be regarded as practically a new, up-to-date work on grammar. It is unnecessary to say that the new edition will receive a hearty welcome from all who are interested in educational progress. The typography, binding, etc., are such as reflect much credit on the publishers.

H. S. M.

Authors of physical geography have hitherto too frequently made the mistake of padding their works with matter that properly belonged to the special department of Physics, Geology, Astronomy, etc., to the detriment of a proper discussion of material purely physiographic. Inceed, in several well known instances, the finished product should be considered more in the light of science-primers than a work on Geography and its value never above suspicion. If a work on Physical Geography is going to be a success it must be something more than a storehouse of information. It must be an educator.

Such a book I consider "Physical Geography," by William Morris Davis (an authority on subjects geographical) and William Henry Snyder.

"The successful development of Geography, considered as a study of the earth in relation to man, must be founded on the study of man's physical environments." This extract from the preface will serve the purpose of making us acquainted with the point of view of the authors. A careful examination of their book will convince the most skeptical that a suitable foundation has been put down.