

War Upon Weeds.

This question of how to get rid of weeds has become of such vital importance to the farmer, that any means of eradicating these pests of his fields and of directing wholesale attention to them will be eagerly welcomed. The book on Farm Weeds,* just published by the Department of Agriculture, is not only a very useful work, but the attractiveness of the volume and the skilful and artistic manner in which the more prominent weeds of Canada are represented in full page pictures, will make the study of them of absorbing interest in the school and on the farm. If the motive in publishing the volume was to interest everybody in weeds and lead all, young and old, to engage in a war of extirpation upon them, no better plan could have been devised than this.

The work was prepared at the suggestion of Mr. Geo. H. Clark, Seed Commissioner in the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. The text, which embraces an introduction on weeds, the losses due to them, etc., their place among plants, and a particular description of each weed—its time of flowering, mode of propagation, in what parts of Canada it occurs, the injury it causes, and the method of eradicating it, is the work of Dr. James Fletcher, botanist and entomologist of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. He has done his work with characteristic ability and thoroughness, leaving little to be desired.

The full page illustrations were made in water-colour from actual specimens, under Dr. Fletcher's supervision, by Mr. Norman Criddle, a well-known plant student, of Aweme, Manitoba. It is but just to say that no better or more artistic portraits of plants have ever been published in Canada.

A book like this, printed and illustrated in such attractive style and published by experts on weeds should have a wide circulation and be followed with excellent industrial results. It may be had for the asking for every home and rural school in Canada.

Attention is directed to Dr. Inch's notice on another page of the Lord Meath prize essays, and to other new advertisements in this number.

* FARM WEEDS OF CANADA; by Geo. H. Clark, B. S. A., and James Fletcher, LL. D., F. R. S. C., F. L. S., with illustrations by Norman Criddle. Published by direction of the Hon. Sydney A. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa.

How to Punctuate.

An exceedingly useful and concise little volume* of less than fifty pages is that on Punctuation by Dr. Logan, of Toronto, in which the writer presents a few compact and simple hints on a subject that appeals to everyone who wields a pen. The rules for the use of the comma, semicolon, colon and dash are brief and to the point, and "follow the tendency of publishers and printers in dispensing with every sign of punctuation not positively required to make sense or to prevent obscurity." Armed with the few hints that the book contains, which can be made a permanent equipment of one's literary style after an hour's study, the busy man or woman may with pleasure forget the cumbrous and arbitrary rules of the rhetoricians, which if he ever laboriously studied in his school days must have made his last state worse than the first.

A long suffering army of conscientious writers and proof-readers may hail the appearance of a sensible argument that at last seems to settle this awkward business of punctuation.

The book is dedicated in very felicitous language to a well-known teacher, Dr. Soloan, principal of the Nova Scotia normal school. "To David Soloan, sturdy citizen—expert teacher . . . both as an appreciation of your sane pedagogic ideals and your great gifts in teaching, and as a memorial of the genial friendship between us, which began twenty years ago under the early half-lights of knowledge in the college by the sea."

A few weeks ago a teacher wrote us asking where he could obtain pictures of our leading educationists to adorn his schoolroom. No pictures exist, so far as we know, that would be suitable for school decoration, but the REVIEW is desirous of meeting this very proper request by publishing full page engravings of our superintendents of education, normal school and other leading teachers. The portrait of Chief Superintendent Dr. Inch was printed several years ago, and we have had frequent requests for it recently. With Dr. Inch's permission it will be re-printed at an early date. Next month we hope to give Dr. A. H. MacKay's portrait. It is not the intention to discontinue the reproductions of art paintings now being sent out with the REVIEW, but in future these will be published alternately with those of our leading educationists.

* QUANTITATIVE PUNCTUATION; an Essay in the Pedagogy of English Composition; by J. D. Logan, A. M., Ph. D., (Harvard). Wm. Briggs, Toronto.