

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

A correspondent sends us the following answers given by a Candidate at the last Entrance Examination:—

Question.—"What was the cause of the trouble between King Charles I. and his Parliament?"

Answer.—"When King Charles had a Parliament he wanted some money and they wouldnt give him any unless he signed them a law they wanted him to and he wouldnt signe it and he got mad and layed down upon the floor and roled over and kicked, screarzed and tumbled around in a great rate and at last he signed it and they granted him some money."

Question.—"Show how England and Scotland came to be one kingdom?"

Answer.—"They was a man who used to stop in this castle and he had a girl he used to go and see at the foot of the castle and he used to go in the night and he had a road down the rocks which he new quite well and he told the English that he good take about 30 men up those rocks at night when they were all asleep and take the castle and he done it and took the castle of Edinburgh and so Scotland and England becamd one kingdome."

Official Department.

1. Under sub-section 22 of section 4 of chapter, of the Revised Statutes, the Education Department is empowered to examine, and at its discretion to recommend or disapprove of text-books for the use of schools.

2. By section 11 of the Public School Act the use of foreign books in the English branches of education in any model or public school is prohibited, unless with the express permission of the Education Department; and by section 12 the portion of the legislative school grant may be withheld from any school in which any book disapproved by the department is used, when public notice of such disapproval has been given.

3. The authority over text-books includes those for high as well as public schools, and such text-books as foreign books in the English branches of education, and those disapproved of by the Education Department, are excluded.

4. While regulations of the department have been framed from time to time with the view of accomplishing these objects, those of the late Council of Public Instruction were revised by the undersigned, and in July, 1877, effect given thereto by order-in-council, and experience since has shown that further amendments in these, respecting text-books in the public schools, were desirable, in the following amongst other particulars:

(1) To confine the text-books approved, to the several subjects in the public school course of study, except in any subject in which no text-book was necessary, owing to the personal instruction of the teacher therein being chiefly relied upon.

(2) The editions of the Readers and many other authorized text-books heretofore printed and published were not examined by the department as thoroughly as can be done under improved machinery for this purpose.

(3) Upon a personal examination the undersigned found that the editions of Readers published by several publishers were poor in paper, printing and binding, and that the requirements for this were not sufficiently defined to ensure a satisfactory uniform standard, and the public was unable to discriminate between books deemed sufficient by the department as to mechanical execution and those which were not.

(4) The maximum retail price of several text-books was also fairly the subject of consideration, owing to the benefits arising from authorization notwithstanding the increase under the present tariff of cost of material used in printing and publishing, such as in type of 15 per cent. and in five articles formerly free 15 per cent., also an increase of one cent per lb. on Canadian paper owing to the increase of duty of 20 to 25 per cent. on imported paper. The reduction now made in the maximum retail prices are, according to per centage: in the Readers about 30; Fleming's Analysis, 2; Abbott's How to Parse, 40; Elements of Etymology, 16½; Arithmetics, 20; Orr's Accountant, 25; Pott's Geometry, 33½; in others, 5, and in several they remain the same. Besides the increased cost of production, the element of profit from larger or smaller sales has also been considered. In the case of the two text-books, published only in England, it has been found necessary under the present tariff to increase the equivalent in Canadian currency to 30 cents for one shilling sterling.

(5) In the new arrangement it can be readily seen what text-books are approved of in each subject of the public school course, and the opportu-

ity is thus afforded of choosing any one from the several text-books so approved.

(6) The requisites now prescribed in order to secure the proper mechanical execution of each copy of every edition to be printed hereafter are clearly defined in the new regulations, and the public will now be fully informed, both as to such editions as have been approved by the undersigned, and as to the retail price to be paid therefor.

(7) Each printer or publisher is required to allow of an examination of his stock on hand from a time to time, by an officer of the department, and to execute a covenant to conform to the regulation.

(8) The regulations may be reconsidered as to further reductions in the retail price as future circumstances may warrant.

REVIEWS.

MOFFATT'S EXPLANATORY READER, No. 5. Moffatt & Patze, London. The explanatory series is a very good series of readers throughout. The paper and type used are so good that a school boy in Ontario would hardly believe that this book was intended for a school reader. The selections aim to combine practical information with literary merit.

WITMEN'S PHONETIC ORTHOGRAPHY. Egertville, N. Y. This little work is intended to show how phonetic spelling might be adapted to English and German.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL WORD-BOOK. By Edward Altham. New York: Daniel Stote & Co. This is a spelling book, combined with a selection of the most important Greek and Latin prefixes, affixes and roots. Both the words and the etymology are arranged in suitable divisions for the various grades of pupils. The selections of words are good for drill.

FIRST STEPS IN READING AND LEARNING. By A. K. Isbister, M.A., LL.B. London: Longman, Green & Co. This book is designed by its author to "utilize the time of those learning to read by presenting in a series of easy lessons a first course of English and Scripture History, Geography, Grammar, Spelling and Arithmetic, with moral lessons and simple poetry for repetition." In addition to this extensive programme writing lessons are given. The book may be regarded as a cyclopaedia of all that a young pupil should have to do in school, and an outlook over what is to come in the future. The lessons are arranged in Mr. Isbister's practical style. Multiplication and Division tables, for instance, are combined in a way that would be suggestive to most teachers of primary classes. The same remark applies to the arrangement of the lessons throughout the book.

THE NATIONAL HYMN AND TUNE BOOK. By Luther W. Mason, late Superintendent of Music in Boston Schools. Boston: Ginn & Heath. This collection of sacred music is intended for use in public schools. There is no reason why only secular pieces should be sung in public schools, and Mr. Mason has done a great good for the profession by selecting the best unsectarian hymns of all ages, and adapting to them the grandest of the standard tunes. Mr. Mason's long experience eminently fits him for preparing a work adapted to the tastes of boys and girls, and without containing anything trashy or degrading to the taste, either literary or musical.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT. By Amos M. Kellogg. New York: E. L. Kellogg & Co. This work is written by a successful, practical teacher, who has no mere theories to advocate. Mr. Kellogg was for some time in charge of the practice department of the Albany State Normal School, and is now editor of the *New York School Journal*. The book is a compendium of suggestions regarding the best method of dealing with all kinds of difficulties that present themselves to teachers. These difficulties are treated in the light of experience, not merely in the haze of opinion. Inexperienced teachers will find this book one of the approximately "royal roads to learning" how to "keep school."

THE PINK GUIDE and *THE GRAY GUIDE* are handbooks in pamphlet form, useful to those preparing for examination in musical knowledge, instrumental and vocal. They are compiled by Frederic Clark, Secretary to Trinity College, London, and published by W. Reeves, 185 Fleet Street. They contain excellent hints, sets of examination questions in music, and not a few points of useful, practical instruction.

We have received two additional volumes of Hudson's series of Shakes-