

which to do it. (The period of active growth of most plants in this part of Canada does not exceed ten weeks).

Aim to make pupils more acquainted with bird life this season. Let them renew the acquaintances of last year and try to form new ones. Watch the development of insects, and let the neighboring ponds be visited for illustrations of the life that is there.

THE HEAVENS IN MAY.

The eclipse of the sun on May 28th will be total in a portion of the Southern United States (the path of total eclipse from the Pacific ocean crosses Mexico, a corner of Texas, out into the Gulf of Mexico, enters Southern Louisiana, whence it passes in an almost straight line to the Atlantic ocean at Norfolk, Va., at which place the sun will be entirely covered at 9 o'clock a. m.) The partial phase of the eclipse will be well worth looking at throughout the Maritime Provinces.

Venus attains its greatest brightness on the 31st, when it will be one hundred times brighter than an average first magnitude star. Mars is morning star, rising an hour and a half before sunrise. Jupiter comes into opposition on the 27th, rising about 7 p. m.

Agricultural Education.

To the Editor of the Educational Review :

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Percy J. Shaw's article, in the April REVIEW, on the laboratory method of teaching agriculture in the schools by a garden attached to each school, is one I have often thought of and spoken of in private conversation.

In country places, an acre or two of ground could be had for each school on which the most approved method of agriculture, including agricultural chemistry, could be taught. Outside work, occasionally, would tend to strengthen the body as well as the mind and thus increase industrial habits which all need when it becomes necessary to leave the parental roof and face the world on their own account. By such a method of teaching, theory and practice would work well together.

We have known men of good education but little energy, which can be attributed in many cases to the want of industrious employment in youth. Poring over intricate studies in school, and little or no recreation to divert the mind, except games of one kind and another, is not a good method of bringing up a child.

As a matter of course, youth must have amusements, but useful employment with the hands as well as the head, must help them in manhood, and I do not believe there can be anything better than the study of agriculture. Professional, commercial and mechanical studies

are very necessary, but all must look to the soil for the sustenance of life, and consequently agriculture must have the first place.

W. M. J.

Westfield, N. B.

To the Editor of the Educational Review :

SIR,—I have been much interested in the article on School Gardens which appeared in your last number. I have no doubt that experimental teaching of that kind would solve many of the difficulties surrounding the study of agriculture in our schools; but to do much garden work the teacher's position must be a more permanent one than it now is. A few children scattered throughout ten or eleven grades; a squalid looking school-house, poorly furnished and with no equipment; trustees whose chief concern is to get along with the smallest possible expense, and who will readily change a teacher at the end of the year if another can be had for twenty dollars less, are difficulties that cannot easily be surmounted in the proper maintenance of school gardens. This state of things does not apply to town or village schools; but it is true that precisely where agriculture is most needed to be taught, and where nature does the most for the section (the rural district), there the conditions which I have mentioned above are too often present, and prevent a teacher from doing what he otherwise could.

Can the teacher do much to remedy this? If he is the right man, it is said he can. But the right man doesn't go into such a field. His talents find better employment and better reward elsewhere.

Again, our present system of education is too expensive. The teacher cannot reduce the expense if he does make the section appreciate education; but too often trustees and ratepayers neither appreciate his efforts nor the value of a common school education such as the present system aims to give. We need consolidation.

E. H.

Kings County, N. S.

A system of free school transportation has been in operation the past winter in several counties about Canton, Ohio. Central township high schools have been provided, and wagons transport the children from the remote parts to and from school. Recently additions have been made to the "kid wagons," as they are called, in the way of a covering of enameled cloth. Windows and doors are provided, and also stoves to keep the girls and boys warm. The driver has resolved himself into a mail carrier for residents along the route, and in this way a system of rural free delivery is maintained.—*The Pathfinder.*