

Inspector Mersereau has appointed May 15th as Arbor Day throughout his inspectorate.

Some of my fellow teachers in need of apparatus for their schools may be encouraged to make an effort to obtain these by my experience. The trustees had no money; I needed apparatus. I had read about the man who put his shoulder to the wheel successfully, so to the wheel I went. The wheel took the form of a public school concert. The lady teachers soon took hold with me, and then the wheel rolled. The principal citizens gave a helping hand. The wardens of the Church of England placed their fine hall at our disposal free of charge. The concert was quite successful and we realized about thirty five dollars, which enabled us to procure quite an assortment. After paying expenses we had twenty eight dollars left. We have expended about twenty dollars for chemicals and apparatus, which are necessary for the most important experiments in Williams' Chemistry. We bought test tubes, glass tubing, flasks, acids, and in fact everything needed with the exception of the most expensive articles. We are more than satisfied with our success and we recommend other teachers in similar circumstances to try something in the same line and hope that all who do so will meet with like success.

Chester, N. S., March 13th, 1896.

R. F. MORTON.

BOOK REVIEWS.

ENGLISH IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. By the English professors of twenty representative institutions. Edited, with introductions, by William Morton Payne. Price, \$1.00. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. This work is composed of papers, nearly all of which have appeared in *The Dial*, Chicago, and are written by such men as Brander Matthews and John F. Genung. It cannot fail to be of great interest and value to those interested either in the teaching or study of English literature, and in setting forth the theories and motives of so many colleges, it points out the direction in which modern methods of literary education are tending, while, read as a whole, it sets up sound ideals of literature and literary training.

ELEMENTS OF BOTANY. By J. Y. Bergen. Boston, Ginn & Co., 1896, 275+57 pp. This is the age of new movements in knowledge and education, and in the progress which the phrase indicates the science of botany is sharing. The "New Botany" studies the plant as a living being of which the structure is determined by function; it replaces the older order which received the plant as a sort of anatomical puzzle, the parts of which had functions of some interest to the curious, but of no very great importance. Mr. Bergen's book is the first in this country intended for elementary instruction which attempts to impress at the start the moulding of structure by function; but very wisely, as we think, the author does not make the book an extreme example of this logical mode of treatment, for the transition would be so abrupt that most of our teachers would be unable to use it. We cannot give a better idea of its scope

than by quoting an extract from the preface. "The attempt is made to discuss plants dynamically rather than statically—to view them as contestants in the struggle for existence, and to consider some of the conditions of success and failure in the vegetable world. While the determination of species by means of an artificial key is illustrated, preparation for this process is by no means the main object or even a principal end which the author has had in view. The tendency of botany-teaching seems to be more and more away from the old ideal of enabling one's pupils to run down a species as expeditiously as possible, and teaching them how to preserve a properly ticketed memento of the chase." The promise of the preface is fully carried out in the book. Perhaps the most striking feature is the early introduction, abundance and simplicity of the physiological experiments, nearly all of which can be performed in any school room with home-made and inexpensive apparatus. Those who are accustomed, or prefer to teach in the old lines will find, however, that nothing of importance in anatomy has been omitted—the work is remarkably condensed though complete. It is profusely illustrated, though the quality of the pictures is uneven, and is in all ways a good specimen of book-making. We predict that this book will have great influence upon the teaching of Botany in the higher schools, and we commend it to the teachers of the Atlantic Provinces as indispensable to all those who wish to keep in touch with progress in teaching the science.

SELECTIONS FROM EPICTETUS. By Edwin Ginn. Price 50 cents. Ginn & Co., Publishers, Boston. The editor of this edition of Epictetus, which is especially intended for the use of young people, has aimed to give in a small compass the choicest sayings of this celebrated philosopher from whom Marcus Aurelius drew much of his inspiration. The great principles which underlie all activity and character are so tersely and so wisely set forth by this great Stoic, that his writings serve admirably to train young people to endure, with greater fortitude and composure, the trials of life.

April Magazines.

In the *Atlantic Monthly*, the second paper upon The Case of the Public Schools is by Fred W. Atkinson, Principal of the High School, Springfield, Mass. His paper has the suggestive title, The Training of The Teacher. . . . "Teaching—A Trade or a Profession?" is the title of a brilliant article by President Schurman, of Cornell University, which appears in April's *Forum*. . . . In *The Popular Science Monthly*, the educational value of the "New Geography," which describes processes as well as their results, is pointed out by Alfred P. Brigham. Under the title The Ways and Means of Ants there is a readable bit of description by Norman Robinson. . . . *Chautauquan*—Cracker English, by Mrs. E. F. Andrews; the Kindergarten, by Mary Chisholm Foster; Current History (editorial). . . . *McClure's*—the new marvel in photography, by H. J. W. Dam; chapters from life (autobiography), by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, helpful alike to teachers and writers.