

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

At the December meeting of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, a paper on the Diurnal Lepidoptera of the Province was read by A. P. Silver, Esq. His collection is said to be the most complete in this section of the Dominion. He treated in a very graphic manner the transformations of some species, their variations and migrations, and sketched a few brilliant blackboard illustrations, the effect of the whole being to fascinate his audience with the study of entomology. In the midst of a busy mercantile life, Mr. Silver has utilized his holidays as people of good means generally do, but with the addition of noting his observations and capturing new specimens wherever found. The result is that Mr. Silver's recreations eventually benefit others as well as himself, and permanently advance the knowledge of our environment. Our readers can do likewise in some branch of science. We are glad to learn that the Institute is likely to have papers from Mr. Silver on the Nocturnal Lepidoptera and on the Coleoptera, at some future date.

Fluorine has at length been isolated in considerable quantities by M. Henri Moissau. He had been at work for three years on the problem at great expense, as platinum was the only material which could stand the corrosion at all, and that only for a short time. Fluorine has the most intense chemical activity of any of the elements.

EDUCATIONAL OPINION.

Religious Intelligencer: "The salaries of teachers generally are too small. Better work would be had for better pay. There is no economy in keeping the teachers' pay down. There may be a seeming saving of a few dollars, but the pupils suffer a loss that cannot be estimated in dollars. But low as salaries are in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec goes lower. In the eastern townships of that Province \$150 is about the average yearly pay. The consequence is that few men and women of ability enter the profession. There are about 700 teachers in the province who have no professional certificates. The state of education is deplorable indeed."

Woodstock Press: "Nothing will encourage teachers more than the sympathy of the parents of those placed under their care. Parents do not generally take much interest in the exercises of the school room, nor are they apt to enquire as closely into the progress of their children's education as they are into their ordinary concerns of life; and yet they undoubt-

edly feel an interest in the relations of children and teacher much greater than they are apt to express. The children who make the greatest advance in their studies, and who are most attached to their school, are those whose parents devote at least a short time each day or evening to their lessons. We venture a step further—the families where the most mutual happiness is found are those where a common interest exists between parents and children in the lessons and duties at school as well as those at home."

John MacDonald in the "Topeka Capital": Will our beloved and good-looking brother, the reporter, be kind and Christian enough to refrain from calling teachers pedagogues? The word may have been fitting enough in the eighteenth century, and in the dark ages, but it in no way applies to the teachers of these latter days. For what is a pedagogue? A dogmatical, ostentatious creature; a Nathaniel Holofernes; a fossil; an abstraction; a human being who does not assimilate knowledge, but who holds it on shelves in his mind; a being mainly of parchment, and not of flesh and blood; in the world, but not of it, "a hide-bound pedant." The teacher of our day is a genial, broad, many-sided, sympathetic human being, and a lover of his kind. But are there not exceptions? Oh, yes, "the poor ye have always with you." Just a few specimens—chiefly in the mummy condition to remind us of what once we were.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

St. Francis Xavier College is building a large gymnasium.

Dalhousie College has advertised new "Munro Exhibitions and Bursaries" for junior matriculation. Five exhibitions of the annual value of \$150 for two years, and ten bursaries of the annual value of \$100 for two years.

From the *Acadia Athenæum* we learn that the students holding scholarships in Acadia are likely to surrender them to the college. In 1886 there was a deficit in the college finances of \$330.22; in 1887, \$1,045.78. The loyalty of the friends of Acadia will not long admit of a deficit in the funds of this popular institution.

The closing exercises of the University of Mount Allison were held in Lingley Hall, Sackville, Dec. 20th, and were, as usual, of a deeply interesting nature. Recitations, essays, a French dialogue, and a debate formed the chief features of the exercises,