

THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.

RARELY does one meet with such an interesting study of dogs as is found in the Supplement of this number. "The Young Master" has donned hunting coat and cap of the old master, and with whip in hand stands in the midst of the pack. Some are all too ready to seek favour by fawning on the master of the whip. The old dog in front on our right has a sad and thoughtful expression, as if he missed the old master. Those on the left affectionately sniff the coat, as if recalling former caresses, old hunting days and races across country. There is material in the picture for a story about dogs.

THE Halifax city council is making a strenuous attempt to reduce the school expenditure. Supervisor McKay's report, of which the REVIEW has received an advance copy, gives some interesting statistics of that city's schools during the past twenty-three years which should make trustees more tolerant of the increasing school rate. Increased school accommodation, better heating and ventilation, better furniture, higher qualifications, and therefore higher salaries of teachers, the great advance in the cost of living, an enlarged course of study, which takes in manual training, domestic science, commercial departments, drawing, medical inspection—all these, with increased efficiency of the schools, are pointed out as reasons for a not too rigid economy.

The Supervisor's report makes some interesting observations on educational conditions observed during his recent vacation visit to the United States and Western Canada, to which reference will be made in a future number.

THE death of Robert Randall McLeod, of Brookfield, N. S., came as a painful shock to his many friends in these provinces. Mr. McLeod was accustomed to spend his winters in Boston of late years, and it was there that his death took place from a sudden failure of the heart. He was an author of considerable repute, and his articles on Nature Study and other subjects have been widely read. He was a profound thinker and a lover of nature in all her aspects. In this the best side of his character was revealed, and it was this gentler impulse, derived from communion with "rural sights and rural sounds," that his friends will lovingly remember.

THE report of Mr. J. George Hodgins, the venerable and accomplished historiographer of the education department of Ontario, has been received. It is reminiscent of distinguished pioneer teachers and those who followed them, and of the debt the province owes in the matter of education to United Empire Loyalists. Many of these were from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where they established institutions of learning, notably King's College, Windsor, in 1790. The following interesting note is found in the report: "To the active and enterprising U. E. Loyalist women of New Brunswick, a monument was erected some years ago. The mother of the noted group of the Ryerson brothers—George, John, Egerton and Edwy—was one of these distinguished women."

A Contribution to Nature Study.

Professor W. F. Ganong's criticism in a recent number of the *Nature-Study Review* (November) is suggestive. He "maintains that the tolerably-taught scientific elementary courses of college and high school are not only educationally of high value, but are incomparably superior to any of the substitutes which have yet, in the name of nature study, been offered for them." Although his article does not directly deal with nature study in the common school, his criticisms are very useful to teachers generally. He regards the training, not the information, that is derived from such study as the all-important matter. This training, based on personal contact with nature and the related use of hand, eye and mind, "has the greatest educational merit that its benefits are not confined alone to the subject in which it is acquired, but can be felt in any occupation the student may later take up." Thus the unfolding of a seed, whether studied in the field, or in a window-box, and its development into the mature plant; a knowledge of the building up of plants and animals from tissues and cells; a knowledge of the significance of the green colour of vegetation to plants, to animals and to man,—are illuminating, far beyond their own limits; much more so, Mr. Ganong thinks, than information about the "economic status and foods of about 100 birds," and other outlines marked out for a nature study course.

He who is honest is noble
Whatever his fortune or birth.

Cary.