

Editorial Corner.

We wish to urge upon our young readers the fact that there is no recreation from which they can derive so much genuine satisfaction combined with useful knowledge as from collecting and studying in one or more departments of Natural History. The boy at school (aye, and girl too) can without any interference with regular studies, make a collection of the minerals, insects, shells or plants of his neighborhood which will in itself be a source of interest to himself and friends, while in his rambles among, and intimacy with the natural objects of his vicinity, he will of necessity make more or less observations useful to others as well as interesting to himself.

Every public school teacher should have a general knowledge of the elements of the Natural Sciences. He should at least be able to name and classify the common animals, plants and minerals of his district. It is very easy to awaken in children a lasting interest in natural objects, and the opportunity should not be neglected.

How to secure a collection of minerals at small cost—send your second hand books and magazines to the *Natural History Exchange*, Kentville, N. S.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The conclusion seems to be that up to comparatively recent times Sahara was a well-watered and wooded region, mostly inhabited by pastoral and agricultural communities, the descendants of more primitive peoples, who were contemporary with Palæolithic and Neolithic man elsewhere. Dr. Oscar Lane who has just published his late explorations, believes the desiccation to have taken place during the historic period, and attributes it largely to the reckless destruction of the woodlands. As vegetation disappeared, so did moisture, the large fauna became extinct, and the settled populations were succeeded by nomad Berbers and Semites. The Crocodile still survives in many of the pools and lakelets which here and there mark the course of mighty streams.