

TOPICS FOR THE SCHOOL ROOM.

The railroad train makes an average of fifteen miles an hour in crossing the 900 miles of desert from the Caspian to Samarkand. The roughness of the road and the character of the country makes a faster speed impossible. For hundreds of miles the road runs through nothing but scanty wastes, and after every storm it has to be cleared of sand. The steamers on the Caspian and the locomotives of the Trans-Caspian Railroad are run by petroleum as fuel.

It is said that the only words in the English language that end in "ceed," are "exceed," "proceed" and "succeed;" that only four English words end in "cion:" "coercion," "suspicion," "internecion" and "epinicion;" that only four end in "dous;" "hazardous," "jeopardous," "stupendous," and "tremendous."

A traveler among the Hudson Bay Indians says that no tent was carried, even in the coldest weather, and it was often forty degrees below zero, with snow five feet deep. A hole was dug down in the snow with a snow-shoe, which makes an excellent snow-shovel. Some poles were then slanted over the hole, thrust into the snow on the side; against the poles boughs were piled, and the loose snow was heaped over these. A warm hut was thus made, at the bottom of which the fire was started. The dogs were put back of them in this hut, and thus helped to keep them warm. The Indians of that country live through the winter in bark tepees, with little clothing beyond a blanket, breech clout, and leggings. Indian children are often seen playing in the snow bare-footed and bare-legged.

The purpose of the kinetograph, the latest invention of Edison, is to produce a perfect image of men, animals and other objects as they appear when in motion. It performs the same service in recording and then reproducing motion as the phonograph performs in recording and reproducing sound. To set down and record exact images of men walking, trees waving in the wind, birds flying, machinery in operation it must make photographs—a number of photographs, which, seen in rapid succession, give a clear image of moving man or brute, bird, or machine. By a phonographic cylinder attached to a kinetograph cylinder, and moving with it, we may revive and enjoy the sound, the sight, and the movement of an object.

The death of James Russell Lowell removes one of the greatest literary men of the nineteenth century. He was born at Cambridge in 1819 and died August, 1891. Among his most celebrated works are "The Vision of Sir Launfal," "The Commemoration Ode," "The Biglow Papers," and others. He was the first editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*.

Although we do not know for certain what is going on in the earth under us, we know that the heat is extreme. In the lower levels of the Comstock mines men found scalding water and a temperature of 120 degrees. The Sutro tunnel was constructed to draw off some of this heat. Borings like the one (4,172 feet deep) at Sperenberg, Germany, and the one over 3,000 feet deep at St. Louis, tell us something about the interior of the earth, but volcanoes tell us more. The great heat turns the water to superheated steam, this melts the rocks, and the molten mass is forced by the pressure up through the fissures of the rocks.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

The Trustees of Woodstock, N. B., have added another department to the grammar school and placed it in charge of Mr. H. D. Creed of Fredericton. The Woodstock Grammar School, under the charge of Principal Steeves, is increasing in efficiency every year.

D. M. Soloan, B. A., (Dal.), late of the Pictou Academy, and his sister, Lena Soloan, late of the Windsor public schools, have gone to St. John's, Newfoundland, to take charge of the Protestant Academy. They report the country as charming; but the thermometer occasionally too high for perfect comfort, the mercury having twice risen above 80°.

A. O. Macrae, B. A., (Dal.), of St. John, has been appointed to the vacancy in the staff of the Pictou Academy.

Victor Frazee, B. A. (Dal.), late of the Pictou Academy, has received an appointment to the staff of the Halifax Business College, under the principalship of J. C. P. Frazee.

Principal Thompson, Albion street school, Halifax, has been appointed to the staff of the Halifax Business College under the principalship of S. E. Whiston.

Professor Russell of Worcester, Mass., has arrived in Halifax, and is setting the manual department of the County Academy in order for the opening of the institution on the 7th September.

The teacher of the Halifax Kindergarten Normal Training School has also arrived, and the department is to be opened in the Alexandra School buildings.

The University of Dalhousie has opened. Matriculation examinations are going on at present.

The Halifax Ladies' College has been renovated during the summer under the direction of R. Fleming, C. E., of Montreal at an expense of several thousand dollars. This fine institution is now perfect in the convenience, healthfulness and beauty of its accommodations.

In referring to the change of teachers at the Harvey, N. B., Superior School in the August REVIEW, we should have said that Mr. W. G. Chamberlain, recently of Collina, Kings Co., took charge at the beginning of the term, and Miss Helen Hetherington is teacher of the primary department.

QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

JOE.—Will you kindly solve the following question in the next issue of the REVIEW: "A bushel measure is 18½ inches in diameter and eight inches in height, what would be the diameter of a similar measure that would contain four quarts?"

For instance: All cubes are similar, that is, they have exactly the same shape. A cube one foot every way contains one cubic foot. A cube two feet every