

"Table for an Ungraded School" was given by Miss Irene Watson. Rev. S. Daw, of North Gower, gave an eloquent metaphysical essay on "Mental Development." The officers elected for the ensuing year are, President, R. Acton, North Gower; Vice-President, Alex. McIlraith, Marlborough; Sec.-Treas., J. H. Moffatt, Manotick; Managing Committee, the above named officers and Messrs. T. Mackey and J. Pelton. The meeting closed by singing "God Save the Queen."

W. F. GIBSON, Secretary.

## Literary Reviews.

THE STORY OF RUSSIA. By M. E. Benson. Crown 8vo; 3s. 6d. *Rivingtons, Waterloo Place, London.*

The presentation of dry details in what is styled "the geography lesson" is never a successful method of teaching a knowledge of other countries, and the effect of such teaching is generally most depressing and distasteful. Enlivened by the leading facts in the history of a country; graphic description of its surface; interesting accounts of the dress, manners, customs, and habits of its inhabitants, and anecdotes about some of its prominent personages, the geography lesson will be looked to as the brightest in the course. The book before us is one of a series having that end in view; and, as it is written in conversational style, the information conveyed assumes the form of story which has a charm and attractiveness irresistible to children. The illustrations are good and numerous, and the binding is strong and pretty. The other books of the series are:—The Story of Norway, by Charlotte S. Sidgwick; The Story of Switzerland, by Theresa Melville Lee; The Story of Spain, by Julia F. Husley; The Story of Denmark, by Charlotte S. Sidgwick, and The Story of Holland, by Isabel Don.

CLASSICS FOR CHILDREN. *Ginn & Company, Boston.*

The recent additions to this now famous series are:—"A Child's Version of Aesop's Fables, with a supplement containing Fables from La Fontaine and Krilof," by J. H. Stickney; Scott's "Ialsman," edited by Dwight Hilbrook, with a preface by Charlotte M. Yonge; and Scott's "Guy Raverling," with a historical introduction by Charlotte M. Yonge. This series is intended to be a fruitful and pleasant course of supplementary reading for pupils of various grades, and the books are gotten up in that neat and serviceable style for which the publishers are noted. In the edition of Scott's works there are ample notes explanatory of the Scottish dialect, which render the text intelligible to children. The type is of the size approved by the Faculty.

THE FIRST STEPS IN NUMBER. Teachers' edition. By G. A. Wentworth, A.M., Professor of Mathematics in Phillips Exeter Academy, and E. M. Reed, Principal of Training School at Plymouth, N.H. *Ginn & Co., Boston.*

Modern ideas as regards the teaching of arithmetic are apparently in favor of the simplification of the staple. The progress "from the known to the unknown" may be made tedious and wearisome to both teacher and pupil, and it is possible that the continual counting of splints, shoe pegs, or pebbles may be carried so far that the principles of numbers may be absorbed in that kind of material. In this book the exercises are such as should suggest themselves to any primary teacher who knows her business and are very good to give ideas of numbers to beginners, but beyond a certain stage the exercises become insipid from sameness and simplicity. It is intended that the work given should extend over four years in school; our experience is that in one year the ground might be effectively covered, except the chapter on per centage, which may be deferred to the third year. Fractions are taught intuitively with the integral numbers from the beginning, and we commend the principle. The object of the book is "to provide teachers with a record of the work done in number in the primary schools." The objective method of exhibiting numbers is well presented, and were it not that the questions are generally of a nature that requires little energy of mind—even with very young children—we would feel inclined to recommend the use of the book.

The Pupil's Edition, price 35 cents, presents a number of easy exercises such as are usually given by the primary teacher on the blackboard.

PRACTICAL ELOCUTION. By J. W. Shoemaker, A.M. 300 pages; price \$1.25. *The National School of Elocution and Oratory, Philadelphia.*

This book appears in new form, enlarged by the addition of about 100 pages. It is a comprehensive treatment of the whole subject of elocution, giving brief consideration to all the topics bearing upon natural expression.

Much of the so-called elocution of the present day is strained, false, overreached, unnatural; and grimace and extravagant gesture are brought in as aids to intensify the growling, shouting, and shrieking that pass painfully as elocution in this nineteenth century. Using the forcible language of common sense, Professor Shoemaker, in his preface, directs attention prominently to "the study of a natural speech as revealed by conversation." "Spoken language finds its original and simplest forms in conversation." He urges (page 186) that "the study of elocution is the study of the highest natural expression," and keeps this in view in all the excellent principles laid down in this valuable book. The selections for reading or recitation are choice and appropriate; the Exercises in Articulation and Hints on Voice Sounds are good and instructive, and the chapters on Expression and Gesture are the best we have yet seen on the subject. Teachers will find this book very valuable, as the Outline of Method instructs in plans for teaching reading successfully to classes of every grade. Clergymen also will find in it many hints as regards the reading of sacred writings. We heartily commend this useful book; no teacher should be without it.

ORATORY. An Oration by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. *National School of Oratory, Philadelphia, Pa.*

This is one of the renowned preacher's happiest efforts, and will be perused with delight. It shows the need of a correct expression of language; the importance of elegance in the choice of language, and is in itself an exemplification of the power and pathos at the will of a cultured speaker.

STUDIES IN GENERAL HISTORY. By Mary D. Sheldon, formerly Professor of History in Wellesley College and Teacher of History in Oswego Normal School, N.Y. *D. C. Heath & Company, Boston.* Price \$1.75.

This book is not a history in the usual acceptance of the term; it is a collection of historical materials, from which the student may gather leading ideas of events and form their own judgment of the people who occupied the several countries from the beginning of history. It is a work of 556 pages, with 40 good illustrations and 23 maps. The prominent points of history are well brought out, and the extracts illustrative of the progress of civilization give a peculiar interest to the book. This being a "students' edition," there is, at the end of each chapter, a series of questions as a study for review, bearing on the substance of the text.

MANUAL TRAINING IN EDUCATION. By James Vila Blake. *Charles H. Kerr & Co., 173 Dearborn Street, Chicago.* Price 25 cents.

Few persons take into account the amount of their education that is done after they have left school, much of which might have been learned while attending school if the means existed in these institutions. The education of the hand should keep pace with the development of the mind, for the welfare of the nation depends on the one as much as the other. This principle is recognized in kindergarten schools and in the importance of Drawing as a branch of school study. Beyond these, at the present time, there is no manual training taught that will be of benefit to the future artisan. He has to learn that while he is forgetting much of what he spent so many important years in school in acquiring. The schools of the near future may remedy this defect, as there is a feeling growing rapidly in favor of technical education, and those who are forming opinions on this important matter would do well to read the above named excellent pamphlet on the subject. Our girls leave school with a smattering of every branch of learning, but with no knowledge by which they can earn their daily bread, except teaching; and our boys are fitted for the overcrowded professions only, with ideas so far above honest handicraft that they despise their fathers' trades that helped them to attain to a much coveted but false position in society. The artisan must be educated, and education must make the artisan.

Three samples, assorted grades, of Ontario Artist Pencils sent by mail on receipt of Ten Cents. Address—W. J. GAGE & Co.

See special offer for June. SCHOOL JOURNAL to end of year and "Prize Problems" sent for 50 Cents.