

longer include one in mental arithmetic. Mr. Land brings a successful experience of twenty years to bear upon his very concise and suggestive little book and the result has been an admirable compilation of useful and thought-producing problems. All teachers are more or less interested in the subject and none should neglect to procure the book, which for compactness and suggestiveness is the best that has come to our notice. Price 25 cents. Messrs J. & A. McMillan, St. John, publishers.

"HOW TO MANAGE BUSY WORK," "HOW TO TEACH BOTANY," "THE GEOGRAPHY CLASS AND HOW TO INTEREST IT." The above titles represent three useful books in paper covers, at 25 cents each, published by E. L. Kellogg & Co., New York. They contain hints and suggestions that the live teacher will adapt and carry out in practice.

LIFE IN ASIA, by Mary Cate Smith; pages 327. Publishers, Silver, Burdett & Co., Boston. The delightful style of narration in this attractive book imparts a realism to the story, and the numerous beautiful illustrations add greatly to its interest. A capital colored map enables the reader to trace the various points of interest, and helps to fix localities in the mind. The illustrations are numerous and finely executed. As a supplementary reader for school use in connection with the study of geography, or as an auxiliary to the regular readers, it cannot fail to prove both valuable and interesting.

NEW SONGS FOR SCHOOLS. J. Fischer & Bro., 7 Bible House, N. Y., have sent us the following new songs: 1. *The Tinker's Song*. (For boys.) J. Wiegand. Price 40 cents. 2. *The Chinese Umbrella*. (For girls.) Chorus with umbrella drill. C. H. Lewis. Price 50 cents. 3. *The Crafty Old Spider*. J. Wiegand. Price 40 cents. They will prove very interesting to persons who are getting up entertainments at schools or social gatherings. Numbers 1 and 2 are beautiful and attractive action songs, and number 3 contains a good moral lesson for young and old.

THE HAPPY METHOD IN NUMBERS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE, by Emily E. Benton. C. W. Bardeen, Syracuse, N. Y. 96 pages. In this very elementary book on arithmetic we find a "blending of the kindergarten and regular primary work" somewhat after the Grube Method. There are about 27 pages more or less fully illustrated. The devices used to give clear elementary conceptions of numbers and of their relations are admirable. We can confidently recommend this little volume to teachers of the 1st and 2nd grades as being the best of its kind.

MENSURATION FOR BEGINNERS, by F. H. Stevens, M. A. Macmillan and Co., New York. 136 pages. Boys are frequently compelled to leave school without having studied geometry or algebra. They may subsequently find it convenient to attend technical or evening schools for the purpose of acquiring a practical knowledge of mensuration. For such boys there could be no better book than the one before us, for it contains in a clear, brief and cheap form all the knowledge of mensuration that is necessary for the ordinary mechanic.

April Magazines.

In the *Horae* is an article on "The Futility of the Spelling Grind" by Dr. J. M. Rice. After noticing a series of interesting tests applied to nearly thirty-three thousand school children, the author concludes that it is unreasonable to seek perfection in spelling, and that in devoting so much time to it there is "an element of waste, which, if eliminated, would open the way to an equal enrichment of the course of study, without detriment to the formal branches."

The widespread interest in public affairs is well illustrated by the large sale of the March issue of the *Atlantic*, which contains John Fiske on the Arbitration Treaty and Woodrow Wilson on President Cleveland. The scholarly treatment of the subject by John Fiske makes the intricacies of this treaty wonderfully plain and shows it in all its broad significance. *Massey's Magazine*, Toronto, is a finely illustrated Canadian number. It contains articles by Dr. Geo. Stewart, "The First Canadian Cardinal," by K. Blake-Watkin, "Down a Nova Scotia Coal Pit," by Prof. Wm. Clarke, "With Parkman through Canada." If instruction in cooking and housekeeping is to become a part of our common school course, our teachers cannot do better than become subscribers to *The Housekeeper*, published fortnightly, Minneapolis, Minn., at 50 cents a year. It is an excellent publication, as its circulation—100,000 each issue—may serve to show. The early April issue of *Littell's Living Age* contains some other papers of striking and timely interest. Among them, Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet on the Eastern question, which has so aroused the attention of the English people; Max Muller's Literary Recollections; Francis de Pressense on the Cretan Question; Leslie Stephen on Gibbon's Autobiography; and a reply by Sir Frederick Pollock to the article on the Hidden Dangers of Cycling which appeared in a March number of the magazine. The first April issue being also the first number of a new volume, the 213th, and a new year, the 54th, offers an excellent opportunity for the beginning of a new subscription. The subscription has recently been reduced to \$6.00 a year. It is published by The Living Age Co., Boston. In Spencer and Darwin, Mr. Grant Allen defines in the *Popular Science Monthly*, the relations of those two great philosophers to the doctrine of evolution: of Spencer as the first formal promulgator of it, seven years before the publication of *Origin of Species*; and of Darwin as having pointed out the method of evolution—through natural selection—and having furnished definite proofs and illustrations of it. "Thackeray in Weimar," by Walter Volpius, in the *Century*, describes the English humorist's friendly relations with Goethe's household and his interviews with the great poet. It is accompanied by a number of characteristic drawings by Thackeray never before printed. Mr. Richard Watson Gilder writing of Harry Fenn, the artist, in "Silk and Cedars," in *St. Nicholas*, gives an account of a visit he once made to the famous mountains of Lebanon, in Tripoli. He describes the silk culture which forms the main industry of the inhabitants, and writes about the noble "Cedars of Lebanon," from which Solomon obtained much of the wood for his temple. Mr. Fenn draws many illustrations for the paper. In *McClure's Magazine* the second instalment of "St. Ives" the new Stevenson novel, confirms the opinion started by the first, that in all the long and varied lists of Stevenson's works is none more enjoyable than this, his last creation. "The Storm Centre of Europe" is the title of a brilliant article by W. H. Withron, D. D., which appears in April's *Chatauquan*.