

who are ambitious of a sound Latin orthography. And yet it is difficult to say how far the editors of texts for Ontario schools would be warranted in going.

The Notes are full, useful, and generally to the point. Occasionally there appears to be irrelevant matter and a show of learning, perhaps not so much for the pupil's benefit as for the Master's notice. The quoting of untranslated parallel passages from difficult Latin and Greek authors is of doubtful value to the ordinary Intermediate or University candidate, who is sure to look upon a *dissectum membrum* as a chimera to be avoided. The etymological notes, the references to the grammars, and the synonymes, which have the great merit of being ready to hand where most needed, are all well done, and merit special praise. They are of more than incidental value.

If the limits of the volume had permitted, we would like to have seen more translation. There are now to be had, although not generally accessible, excellent translations of some of the Classic authors—quite different from the "pony" of our college days. The young student should see occasionally a good model, and the best specimens of translation to be found should be introduced judiciously into our notes. Away with the "crib," but give us a model.

The Notes are followed by an Index of Proper Names, well arranged for cramming purposes. The Vocabulary is, we think, merely White abridged, the enumeration of primary and derived meanings and the difficult inflexions found in the text being omitted.

A word of praise remains for the printer and binder. Messrs. Copp, Clark & Co.'s school books are always well got up, and have a good honest look about them, which alone would recommend them to notice.

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THE ELEMENTS OF STRUCTURAL BOTANY ; with Special Reference to the Study of Canadian Plants. To which is added a selection of Examination Papers. By John Macoun, M.A., F.L.S., Professor of Botany in Albert University, and H. B. Spotton, M.A., Head Master of Barrie High School. Illustrated by the authors. Toronto: W. J. Gage & Co., 1879.

THIS little work is a perfect model of what an elementary text-book in natural science

should be. The plan adopted is thus described by the authors: "To put into the learner's hands some common plants, and to lead him, by his own examination of these, to a knowledge of their various organs—to cultivate, in short, not merely his memory, but also, and chiefly, his powers of observation." This is the true method which was practised so successfully by the late Prof. Henslow, and it is the only one by which a real knowledge of a science like botany can be acquired. Pursued in this way, the study becomes as pleasant and interesting as when taught by the reverse method it is disagreeable.

In carrying out this method a well-known wild-flower is selected as a specimen, and, as it were, taken to pieces before the eyes of the student, the various parts, and their uses, being briefly but clearly described. In this way, in the first nine chapters, plants representing typical orders belonging to the exogens or dicotyledons are gone through with. The tenth and eleventh chapters are in like manner devoted to a description of some typical specimens of the endogens or monocotyledons. In chapters twelve and thirteen the morphology of the various organs of plants is described with greater fulness, and the process of germination is briefly sketched. In chapter fourteen (wrongly numbered fifteen) the histology, or minute structure of plants is described in the same practical way; and in the last chapter (the fifteenth, but wrongly numbered the sixteenth) a brief account is given of the classification of plants according to the natural system. A supplementary chapter gives instructions as to the formation of a herbarium; and a copious index and glossary, and a selection from the examination papers of the University of Toronto, add still further to the usefulness of the work. The illustrations, which, with the exception of two or three, have been taken from living specimens, are not the least valuable feature, being beautifully drawn and printed.

The omission of any account of the cryptogams is a mistake, because the work is thereby, to that extent, rendered incomplete