

first-class teachers in the lower departments. The present staff of teachers, under Principal Brown, are Miss Lillian A. Milner, Miss Helen A. Vidito and Miss Margaret C. Spurr, all of whom are efficient first-class normal-trained teachers. Bridgetown is to be congratulated on the efficiency of its schools.

Among the signs of progress in country districts, says the *St. Stephen Courier*, may be noted organs for school use—as at Elmsville, Lower Bocabec and Bay Road. Good pictures are hung in many of the schools, and scrap books filled with useful information gathered by teachers and pupils are making their appearance.

The Teachers' Institute for Inspectoral District, No. 4, (Annapolis and Digby Counties) Nova Scotia, will meet at Middleton, Annapolis County, on the 11th and 12th days of April. The Teachers of Inspectoral Districts, Nos. 2 and 3, will be allowed to attend this meeting under existing regulations on the same terms as the teachers of District No. 4. Districts Nos. 2 and 3, embrace the Counties of Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne, and Yarmouth, which have no organized institute.

The school children and teachers of Truro, N. S., have subscribed \$83 to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, The Church School for Girls at Windsor, has sent in \$30, and numerous other schools of the Maritime Provinces have contributed varying amounts from one dollar up.

Mr. S. L. T. McKnight, who for some time successfully taught the Superior School at Port Elgin, N. B., has been appointed to a position in the department of railways at Ottawa.

Considerable interest is being manifested in the Perry Art Pictures in the schools of Albert County, says the *Maple Leaf*. The teachers find them a great source of interest and instruction.

Principal J. M. Longley, A. M. (Acadia) is one of the successful teachers of Nova Scotia. He has had much experience, both in common and in high school work. He has been principal of the County Academies at Annapolis, at Guysboro, and at Digby. He was in charge of Guysboro Academy for eight years, and resigned from that position on account of his health. After one year's rest, Principal Longley took charge of the Digby Academy, from which position he resigned at the end of the year, much to the regret of the Board of School Commissioners of the town. For nearly two years, Principal Longley has had charge of the Advanced Department of the graded schools at Paradise, Annapolis County, his native place, and at the same time he has the oversight and management of a small farm which he owns and on which he resides. For many years past, the Paradise school has taken a high rank, and we have no doubt but that its high reputation will be materially enhanced under Principal Longley's regime. The Elementary Department of that school is being taught most successfully by Miss Edith Balcolm, Class B.

RECENT BOOKS.

For years attention has been attracted to the schools of Cincinnati, chiefly on account of the progressive character of the education given in them and its adaption to public needs and improvement. The autobiography of Supt. John B. Peaslee,¹ of that city, shows what can be accomplished for schools in the way of literary stimulation, in inspiring young children to read and love good books, in celebrating the birthdays of authors, in adorning schoolrooms with appropriate pictures, in the observance of Arbor Day and implanting in other ways a love of nature, in cultivating a higher moral tone, chiefly by inculcating habits of neatness, order and method in work, and in introducing many practical reforms in teaching. During the twelve years superintendency of Dr. Peaslee, the Cincinnati schools attained the highest reputation at home and abroad, which won for them the opinion of Dr. Harris, the United States Commissioner of Education, that Dr. Peaslee had accomplished the best thing done for schools of that country in fifty years. This is high praise. Every teacher will be benefitted by reading the book, which is stimulating and interesting from many points, chiefly in this,—that it shows what can be accomplished for the community, the home and the school by courage, devotion and perseverance.

Two notable text-books on botany have recently appeared which are destined to exert a wide influence in the modern conception of that science. These are "Plant Relations" noticed in the December REVIEW, and "Plant Structures,"² both by Prof. John M. Coulter, of Chicago University. Students of botany and lay readers will read these books with the greatest interest because they embrace the latest researches governing adaptation of structure in plants to habits and environment, those evolutionary processes by which our present forms came into existence, and the conditions under which such forms maintain their places. To begin a work on plants with the lower forms, gradually working up to the higher, has usually been considered a failure, but in this case the author assumes that "the lower groups are not merely necessary to fill any general view of the plant kingdom, but they are absolutely essential to an understanding of the structures of the highest group." (*Plant Structures*, p. 172). As one follows his work from the sea-weeds to the flowering plants, watching the evolution of new forms with added functions, told with fine powers of description, aided by abundant illustration, he realizes that the author is convinced that his plan is the proper one. Throughout the book the idea of function is always present, giving the real meaning to structure, and leading to a broad knowledge of classification. The clear summing of foregoing characters, for instance, in taking up a new class of plants, is one evidence of the skill with which the subject is treated. The clearness of the descriptions, with as few technical terms as possible, its beauty of illustration, and attractive pages, makes this, with "Plant Relations," almost an ideal work for the student of plants. H.

¹ THOUGHTS AND EXPERIENCES IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL. By John B. Peaslee, LL.B., Ph.D. Accompanied by Letters from Longfellow, Whittier, Holmes and other American authors. 5½ x 7½ inches. Pages 396; price \$1.50. Publishers Curts & Jennings, Cincinnati, Ohio.

² PLANT STRUCTURES, A Second Book of Botany, by Prof. John M. Coulter, A.M., Ph.D., Head of Department of Botany, University of Chicago. 5½ x 8 inches. Cloth. Pages 348. Price \$1.20. Publishers, D. Appleton & Co., New York.