

The Philadelphia *Bulletin* says:—"It is a very remarkable fact that speaks badly for our vaunted progress in the science of education, that almost nothing is taught in the schools of the present day. They are simply recitation rooms, where children go to repeat the result of laborious study and instruction at home. The school proper is at home, and the parents are the teachers. The amount of labor that our modern school system throws upon the parents of the scholars is as intolerable as it is wrong and unreasonable. In many families the evening circle is simply a drudgery over the teaching and learning of lessons, often so badly adapted to the capacity of the pupil, to be learned from text-books so ingeniously contrived to "darken wisdom with words without knowledge," that parent and child are alike incapable of mastering their difficulties. Hours that belong to domestic recreation and enjoyment are thus converted into hours of weariness and vexation.

Miss Howard, an American lady, is one of the most distinguished physicians in China.

Dartmouth College is to have a new chapel, to cost \$30,000. Work will begin on it in the spring.

Miss Fuller is a school teacher in Grand Marais, Northern Michigan. She is also an admirable shot with the rifle, and after school hours goes hunting in the neighboring woods.

The University of Zurich has now thirty-one women students, of whom only seven are German. Twenty of these ladies are studying medicine, ten philosophy, and one chemistry. Zurich has conferred the doctor's degree on thirty women during the ten years, during which the university has been open to both sexes alike. Twenty-three of these were doctors of medicine; the remaining seven had the Ph. D. degree.

The comment is made that Mr. Mulhall, the eminent English statistician, suggested remedies for suicide are really preventives of insanity. He tabulates them somewhat as follows:—1. To abolish the duty on coffee, which is the greatest foe to intemperance. 2. To open museums and galleries on Sunday afternoons. 3. To forbid marriages between cousins, under penalty of paying double the ordinary poor rates. 4. To imitate Mr Peabody, as far as possible, in erecting suitable workmen's tenements. 5. To recommend less high pressure in schools.

Mrs. Mattie Booth, a coloured woman, has opened a school for women in her husband's parish in Selma, Ala. In the three months of the school, she has welcomed forty who were unable to go elsewhere. She writes, "One old woman, seventy-five years of age, came tottering in with her primer. A younger pupil said, 'Why, Sister Grant, you are too old to go to school.' 'I know,' she said, 'my time is almost out here, but I would like to learn just to spell the word God; then I shall be satisfied.'"

At a school examination a clergyman was descanting on the necessity of growing up loyal and useful citizens. In order to give emphasis to his remarks, he pointed to a large flag hanging on one side of the school-room, and said:—"Boys, what is that flag for?" An urchin who understood the condition of the room better than the speaker's rhetoric, exclaimed:—"To hide the dirt, sir."

An interesting experiment is being tried at Bowdin College. The president and a jury selected from the students try all offenders against college discipline. The jury is composed of one representative from each class, one from each inter-collegiate society, and one from non-society students. The president is the judge. He awards the penalties. Two verdicts are brought in—one of fact, the other of opinion. The former must be unanimous. The latter is determined by a majority vote. Four grades of offences are recognized, and corresponding penalties annexed to each. The president has no right to award any other penalty than the one attached to the particular offence in question.

Out of 780 young men under 21 years of age committed to the Eastern Pennsylvania Penitentiary during one year, 765 had no trades, though 772 were graduates of schools. This is a sad commentary on the too prevalent notion both of youths and parents that the only respectability and all the opportunities for individual advancement are in the kid-gloved pursuits. Young men roughly jostled out of the over-crowded professions and genteel employments find themselves utterly unfit for anything useful, and in too many cases turn to crime as likely to afford the most satisfactory returns. It is not the fault of education; it is the fault of the unfortunate social tendency of the times, which so seriously discriminates against legitimate labor, and falsely elevates white hands and good clothes and empty heads and pockets.—*Globe*.

Readings and Recitations.

TO THE TEACHER.

"Treat the children fairly, kindly,
Lead them gently on their way,
Let them feel the power of sunshine,
As they toil from day to day.
Make their labors happy, pleasant,
Win them by the love of truth;
Lure them on by sweet incentive
O'er the slippery paths of youth."

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

This man, who became so famous throughout the civilized world, was born at Boston, Mass., on the 17th of January, 1706. His father was a dyer and soap chandler. At the age of eight years he was sent to a grammar school to begin his education for the Church. Before he had made much progress he was taken home to assist his father. Being the fifteenth of seventeen children, it is probable that but for his ambition and indomitable perseverance he would have remained a soap boiler, and thus would have been lost to America the fame of having produced the man who first learned to utilize lightning. Finding the boy so dissatisfied with his present employment, his father apprenticed him to his brother James, who was a printer. While learning the trade of printer he formed acquaintances from whom he borrowed books.

His thirst for knowledge was so great that he often read all night in order to return books which he would borrow one evening to be returned the next morning. About this time he indulged in writing poetry, but soon became convinced that the paths of poetry were not for his feet. He began to argue with a young friend who was also fond of reading. These disputes were often written, and he found himself inferior to his friend in style and diction. To remedy this, he read articles from the finest writers, and soon found himself greatly improved; so much was he encouraged that he hoped to become a great writer. Many and great were the obstacles before him, but he had the will and pluck to persevere. His brother's treatment had ever been unkind, and he decided to leave him. He had lived in a very frugal manner, in order to have money to buy books, a part of which he now sold to get money to enable him to seek employment in other cities. After failing in Boston he proceeded to Philadelphia, where he landed a stranger, worn and hungry, with one dollar and a few coppers. Out of this he paid his passage and bought some bread, which he ate as he wandered up and down the streets in search of employment. Miss Read, who became his wife years afterward, saw him from her father's door, and said he presented a very ridiculous figure, walking munching from a loaf of bread, and carrying one under each arm.

But he did not remain obscure. His industry, morality, and frugal habits soon brought him friends. In 1724, by the advice and promised assistance of friends, he went to London, expecting to set up in a business for himself. As is too often the case, the friends forgot to lend the promised aid, and he was thrown on his own resources.

His temperate, frugal manner of living was the means of doing a great deal of good. His companions abolished the mug of beer and other harmful things from their meals, and by simpler fare were enabled to save health, morals, and money. Soon after this he published his celebrated almanac called "Poor Richard's Almanac," which was full of valuable moral maxims which have since been collected in a little book called "The Way to Wealth." In 1736 he was appointed clerk to the General Assembly, next postmaster, then alderman. He also began to give great attention to public schools, hospitals, and other measures for the good of the people. He proved the identity between lightning and the electric fluid. By means of a kite string and key he drew lightning from the clouds, imprisoned it in a vial, and gave to the world a power which has since been made so useful. He had become a great philosopher and statesman, visited kings and courts, received