

—**HAND BOOK OF ZOOLOGY.** By Principal Dawson, of McGill University. Montreal: Dawson, Brothers. We are glad of the appearance of this handsome little book. We have had nothing hitherto adapted to our own schools, in which examples were found of "Canadian Species, recent and fossil." This book admirably supplies this felt want; and in the hands of Dr. Dawson its accuracy and thoroughness, though a merely elementary text book, may be unquestioned. The arrangement and size of the type is all that could be desired, while the illustrations are not only numerous, but are well adapted to illustrate the text and render the study a less dry and uninviting one to the young learner.

—**WEBSTER'S NEW UNABRIDGED PICTORIAL DICTIONARY**, which has lately been received from Messrs. G. & C. Merriam (Springfield, Massachusetts), is certainly a most admirable publication. We have turned over page after page, and examined and compared them with those of other dictionaries. The result has been most satisfactory. And although we find some definitions or other features of the work unequal, yet, on the whole, we are greatly indebted to the editors and publishers of *Webster's Dictionary* for the almost inexhaustible variety of information given in this invaluable publication. It is not necessary to institute a comparison with *Worcester*, its great, though younger rival. Both are monuments of unwearied industry, great learning, taste and skill in the arrangement and condensation of a vast amount of material. In regard to the present new illustrated edition of *Webster* we may say that it embodies eighty large quarto pages which, in the previous edition, were devoted to a treatise on this subject, in which more than two thousand of the principal words of the language, having similar shades of meaning, have their resemblances and precise shades of difference carefully discriminated and pointed out. This, the latest considerable work of the late lamented Dr. Goodrich, it is believed, forms, in many respects, the best treatise on English synonyms for popular use extant. The attention of teachers is specially invited to this feature. The pictorial illustrations constitute a very attractive feature of the present edition, are over three thousand in number, of a size truly to illustrate the words in question, well executed. They often convey to the student a much clearer conception of the character of an object, and the true meaning of a word, than is possible from any mere verbal description. Take, for example, as showing the value of these to the student in the common school, the cut on page 1711, illustrating the terms in geography. The tables which are given would alone constitute a volume of great value. One gives the correct pronunciation of several thousand geographical names: another, of important biographical names. Another, of classical, scriptural, &c. The most important, however, and quite unique, is the "explanatory and pronouncing vocabulary of the names of noted fictitious persons and places," which alone has been pronounced worth the price of the whole work. (See advertisement on page 64.)

—**PRINCIPLES OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE**, as applied to the Duties and Pleasures of Home. "By Catharine E. Beecher & Harriet Beecher Stowe." J. B. Ford & Co., New York. The two distinguished American ladies who have prepared this book, have already rendered essential service to the young of the present generation and to society generally, by their other useful books on kindred subjects. Mrs. Stowe's *House and Home Papers*, *Little Foxes*, *The Chimney Corner*, &c. (which may be obtained from our Educational Depository for school libraries), are most timely publications, and, with the present work, will largely contribute to the promotion of good habits, good manners, thrift, industry, kindly feeling and forbearance in "Home and Home Life." Without going further into the details of this work, we would give the headings, briefly, of a few out of the many chapters into which the book is divided: The "Christian Family"; the "Christian House," illustrated with twenty-one suggestive engravings; a "Healthful Home," with six illustrations; "Scientific Domestic Ventilation," with three illustrations; "House Heating"; "House Decoration," also illustrated; "Health"; "Exercise"; "Food"; "Drinks"; "Early Rising"; "Domestic Manners"; "Good Temper"; "System and Order"; "Economy of Time and Expenses"; "Domestic Amusements"; "Accidents and Antidotes"; "Domestic Animals"; "Care of the Ignorant," and an "Appeal to Teachers and Pupils," besides chapters on twelve other topics. We cordially recommend this book as a most valuable and instructive one on Home and Home Life.

—**THE BRITISH REVIEWS** and **BLACKWOOD** are supplied by the enterprising firm of Messrs. Copp, Clark & Co. (late Chewett), of this city. The advertisement of these publications, which we published in our last number, gives full particulars as to the prices, in Canada, as well as of the peculiarities of these most valuable serials.

—**APPLETON'S JOURNAL** is regularly received, and is a most excellent periodical. Its illustrations are admirable, and its matter very

superior to other publications of the same class. (See advertisement on page 64.)

—**HARPER'S WEEKLY** and **BAZAAR** are duly received. The latter publication is all that could be desired of its class, and, with its fashion and fancy-work plates, must prove most acceptable to the ladies. The *Weekly*, in its way, is scarcely equal in value to the *Bazaar*, but now and then it contains striking original illustrations and news. The *Illustrated London News*, *Graphic*, and other similar publications are, however, too often laid under contribution to render its pages as interesting and valuable as it might otherwise be. (See advertisement on page 64.)

—**THE CANADA BOOKSELLER**, issued by Adam & Stephenson, Toronto, is handsomely printed, and contains a good deal of literary information. If its editor, however, intends to revive the "crusade" against the Educational Depository, connected with the Department of Public Instruction, as this number of the *Bookseller* gives evidence, we shall take steps accordingly, and meet the booksellers as we have done before; and in the publication of the new Depository Catalogue, next summer, shew whether it will be for the interest of the schools that the Government and the Legislature should adopt the selfish views of the *Bookseller* (which is not content with the whole text-book trade and the entire trade with the general public), or exercise the supervision, which we now do, over the prize and library books put into the hands of the children in our schools, and at the same time provide, by means of the Depository, such a large variety of books that all the booksellers in Toronto, together, cannot equal. The ill-founded plea of "interference with the trade" is utterly disproved by the facts given in the table on page 51 of this journal. Why not, with equal consistency, attack the Militia Department for supplying military coats, trousers and caps; the Stationery Office for supplying stationery to the departments; the Dockyards for building ships, instead of buying them from "the trade," and a host of other ways in which the government provide for the wants which arise in the various branches of the public service? Thus, the public schools are intrusted to the care of the Education Department; and it is bound to see that they are most efficiently provided for, both with teachers and the best and most extensive variety of good sound reading books, and not left to the mercy of hundreds of interested parties whose only motive, except in a few instances, is "gain."

11. GREEK LIFE IN THE HOMERIC AGE.

The following is from Mr. Gladstone's recent work, "*Juventus Mundi*:"

"The youth of high birth, not then so widely as now separated from the low, is educated under tutors in reverence for his parents, and in desire to emulate their fame; he shares in manly and in graceful sports, acquires the use of arms, hardens himself in the pursuit, then of all others the most indispensable, the hunting down of wild beasts; gains the knowledge of medicine; probably also of the lyre. Sometimes, with many-sided intelligence, he even sets himself how to learn to build his own house, or ship, or how to drive the plough down the furrow, as well as to reap the standing corn; and when scarcely a man, he bears arms for his country or his tribe, takes part in its government, learns, by direct instruction and by practice, how to rule mankind through the use or reasoning and persuasive powers in political assemblies, attends and assists in sacrifices to the gods. For all this time he has been in kindly and free relations, not only with his parents, his family, his equals, of his own age, but with the attendants, although they are but serfs, who have known him from infancy on his father's domain.

"His early youth is not solicited into vice by finding sensual excess in vogue, or the opportunities of it glaring in his eye and sounding in his ear. Gluttony is hardly known; drunkenness is marked only by its degrading character and by the evil consequences that flow so straight from it, and it is abhorred. But he loves the genial use of meals, and rejoices in the hour when the guests gathered in his father's hall enjoy a liberal hospitality, and the wine mantles in the cup. For then they listen to the lay of the minstrel who celebrates before them the newest and the dearest of the heroic tales that stir their blood and rouse their many resolutions to be worthy, in their turn, of their country and their country's heroes. He joins the dance in the festivals of religion; the maiden's hand upon his wrist, and the gilded knife gleaming from his belt, as they course from point to point, or wheel in round and round. The maiden, some Nausicaa or Hermione of a neighbouring district, in due time he weds, amidst the rejoicings of their families, and brings her home to cherish her 'from the flower to the ripeness of the grape,' with respect, fidelity, and love. Whether as governor or as governed, politics bring him, in ordinary circumstances, no great