

nowhere more truly than in the work of educational reform. The hide-bound pedants, as Carlyle dubbed them, are getting uneasy beneath their tomes. School-keepers are giving place to school-teachers, and pedagogy is taking position where it belongs, in line with law, medicine, and theology. Prof. Swett's book will help on the good cause; not as being the exponent of any theory, except the theory that to teachers knowledge of child-nature is as essential as physiology to physicians; not because his ideas are new; but rather just because he has sought neither of these ends. His field is strictly that of the common schools, a ground on which, particularly in the last half dozen years, there have been many workers. The merit of his book is that from this mass of literature its author has separated the kernel, and made its goodness easily available to teachers who have neither time nor, perhaps, ability to do the work for themselves. For those who have not enjoyed normal training it will be especially helpful. Liberal use has been made of the writings of Bain and Spencer, and of the reports of such superintendents as Eliot and Harris. Not least in value are the large number of working models in geography, history, and all common-school branches, that make up nearly half the book. On the whole, we recommend it as a practical handbook, worthy a place on any teacher's table.

MINOR NOTICES.

Pencilled Fly-Leaves. By John James Piatt. [Robert Clarke & Co. 1.00.] A man may be able to write excellent poetry, and yet not write excellent prose. Mr. Piatt has added nothing to his reputation by this little book of essays or sketches, which are generally on trite subjects, and written in a commonplace way. Some of them have the appearance of having been made up to fill a certain space in a newspaper, to answer a temporary necessity, while three or four are so original and suggestive that one wonders why more were not written after the same pattern. For instances of the former, what could be more like a school-boy's composition than "A Chapter of Paragraphs" and "Thanksgiving for a Spring Day?" while the "Invitation to a House-warming," "The Sight of a Ghost," and "Going to Bed in a Cold Room" represent the latter class. The last and longest of the fifteen papers, "How the Bishop Built his College in the Woods," is an account of Bishop Chase and Kenyon College — a condensed and graphic bit of history of an important enterprise.

Methods of Teaching. By John Swett. [Harper & Brothers. \$1.25.] Forward is the word to-day along every line of human activity, and