

"Moreover, the typical business man cannot, in the nature of the case, be successful in such a post. His standards of success are the reverse of educational. Underneath the temporary appearance of external prosperity which such a president might bring, there is almost certain to be the dry rot of educational neglect. The more important the college or university, the more surely it needs expert educational supervision. For this there is no possible substitute. Like a city school system, a college or university needs someone in its administration who knows and understands its educational activity in every part, who can distinguish real teaching from sham teaching, and the force of whose personal inspiration will be felt in every department. Those who remember the administration of President McCosh of Princeton, well understand what this means.

"The four new presidents are men of this type. They are men of strong personality, and each will leave his mark for good upon the institution which has honored him. All four are, in a large sense, men of affairs, and may be expected to relate their institutions more closely than ever to the life and thought of the time. This new impulse is particularly needed at Yale, where what we believe to be an unfortunate and dangerous policy of educational isolation has long been pursued. To overcome that isolation, and to restore Yale to its legitimate place as a progressive educational influence are likely to be two of the most noteworthy achievements of President Hadley's administration."

THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS.

THE Commissioner of Education, of the Public Schools, of the State of Rhode Island, Thos. B. Stockwell, has issued the following circular :
TO THE SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TEACHERS OF THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND :

I desire to call your attention to the efforts now being made in this State by the Audubon Society for the preservation of our native birds. From reliable statistics it is evident that unless some active measures are speedily taken, their number will be very much reduced and some varieties will become extinct.

The value of the birds, from various points of view, is incalculable. As a protection to the farmer against the ravages of countless forms of insect life,

as a source of joy and satisfaction to every lover of nature, they minister both to our material and our æsthetic interest. Indeed, it was not till within a few years that the Department of Agriculture, through a long course of accurate observations, determined beyond a question the economic value of almost every native bird in his relation to the various forms of vegetation ; and it is no longer debatable whether the inroads of certain pests destructive to certain forms of vegetation are not due quite largely to the scarcity of the birds.

As any improvement in this matter must be brought by imparting more correct information about the birds, it is evident that the public schools, and especially those of the country sections, afford the most effective means for the dissemination of the facts, and the awakening of a life interest in the protection of bird life. The new movement towards Nature Study, which has recently been manifested and is spreading quite rapidly through the schools, furnishes the natural channel by means of which instruction and information on this subject may be readily brought before the children, and through them to the people generally.

The more our children are brought into the right touch with nature, and especially with such beautiful creatures as the birds, the more certain it is that their minds and hearts will be filled with right sentiments and feelings, and that their characters will be moulded aright.

To that end then I bespeak your cordial interest in this general subject, and your coöperation with the plans of the Audubon Society for the protection of our feathered friends.

THE COMPANIONS OF POLARIS.

PROFESSOR W. W. CAMPBELL, of Lick Observatory has made the following statement in regard to his discovery that Polaris or the North Star is a triple system :

The observations of Polaris were made with the Mill's spectroscope attached to the thirty-six-inch telescope. From the well-known principle of the shifting of the lines in the spectrum of a star, we can determine whether the star is approaching or receding from the observers and how rapidly. For most stars the velocity is constant. For some stars the velocity is variable, due to the attractions of companion stars.

The recent observations of Polaris at Lick Observatory show that its velocity is variable. It is approaching the solar system now with a