

TEACHING OF NATURAL SCIENCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—In a paper read before the British Association, Rev. W. Farrar “expressed his conviction of the necessity and desirability of extensive education in physical science.” Dr. Hooker “considered chemistry as too rigid a study for a young boy to commence with, and thought botany and zoölogy should be the first studies.” Professor Tyndall “had often witnessed the deep interest boys took in the study of physics, when properly opened to them. The habit of verification by experiment, and the consciousness of a power of prediction, were most important characters to implant in the mind; but this could only be done by a true and philosophic study.”

* METHOD OF OBTAINING A NEW QUEEN BEE FROM WORKER-GRUBS.—Mr. Tegetmeier has described a practical application of Shirach’s discovery respecting the power of bees to raise a new queen from a neuter or worker grub, by means of which the contents of old hives can be taken without destroying the bees or sacrificing any brood:—

“The plan consists in driving out the queen, and about half the bees in the spring, and establishing them as a new swarm, when the bees remaining in the old hive have to raise a new queen from a worker grub. From the time required to accomplish this, it follows that no egg can be laid for about three weeks; by this time the workers, proceeding from eggs laid by the old queen, will have been hatched out, and the cells filled with honey, when the whole of the bees are to be driven out, and the honey, which will be found perfectly free from brood, retained for use.”—*Proceedings of the Entomological Society of London.*

NOVEL WAY OF SHOOTING EAGLES.—Hunters find it a very easy matter to shoot the Bald Eagles, which are occasionally found in winter along the shores of Cayuga Lake. They approach the birds on horseback, to within fifteen or twenty yards, and then slide from the horse and shoot them at their leisure.—W. J. BEAL.

GEOLOGY.

ORIGIN OF LIFE ON OUR GLOBE.—With regard to the origin of life on our globe, M. Figuier does not dogmatize:—Did plants precede animals, we cannot tell, but such would appear to have been the order of creation.” Our globe, he thinks, during the Cambrian and Silurian periods, was not yet mature enough for the existence of the higher organisms. “A pale sun struggled to penetrate the dense atmosphere of the primitive world, and yielded a dim and imperfect light to the first created beings as they left the hand of the Creator, organisms often rudimentary, but at other times sufficiently advanced to indicate a progress towards most perfect creations.” The absence of organisms more advanced in the zoölogical scale than were the Trilobites, is no proof that more highly organized animals did not exist on the globe during the Cambro-Silurian period. Those who