

the readers, striving to combine recreation and profit without making the course too long or burdensome. They include a portion of the work prescribed for the post-graduate course of the Normal School, and some of the selections in general literature which are required for admission to the State University. It is thought desirable to make historical reading a very important part of the work, as very little history, except that of the United States, is taught in our public and Normal schools. The works of fiction afford recreation and at the same time serve to impress most vividly the various historical epochs.

To the lover of books the appended course speaks for itself:

COURSE FOR 1887.

History—{The Story of Chaldea, by Z. A. Ragozin.
 {The Story of Ancient Egypt, by George Rawlinson.
 {The Story of the Jews, by James K. Hosmer.
 Historical Novels connected with the above—{An Egyptian Princess, by George Ebers.
 {Ben-Hur, by Lew Wallace.
 Professional—Payne's Lectures on Education.
 Books recommended, but not required—{Hypatia, by Charles Kingsley.
 {Uarda, by George Ebers.

COURSE FOR 1888.

History—{The Story of Assyria, by Z. A. Ragozin.
 {The Story of Persia, by S. G. W. Benjamin.
 Historical Novel—Zenobia, by W. Ware.
 Professional—Philosophy of Education, by J. K. F. Rosenkranz.
 General Literature—{Lay of the Last Minstrel, by Scott.
 {Vision of Sir Launfal, by Lowell.

COURSE FOR 1889.

History—{The Story of Greece, by James A. Harrison.
 {The Story of Alexander's Empire, by John P. Mahaffy.
 Historical Novel—Aspasia, by Robert Hamerling.
 Professional—Compayre's History of Pedagogy, Translated by W. H. Payne.
 General Literature—{The Alhambra, by Washington Irving.
 {Preparatory Greek Course in English, by J. Wilkinson.

COURSE FOR 1890.

History—The Story of Rome, by Gilman.
 Historical Novels—{Antiochus, by Taylor, translated from the German by Mary J. Safford.
 {Last Days of Pompeii, Bulwer.
 Professional—{Mind Studies for Young Teachers, by Jerome Allen; or
 {Lectures on Teaching, Fitch.
 General Literature—{Preparatory Latin Course in English, by Wilkinson.
 {The Newcomes, Thackeray.

MEMBERSHIP.

The conditions for membership are arranged with a special view to avoid exclusiveness and to encourage association. It is hoped that the fellow-teachers, friends and pupils of our members may be induced to join them in the whole or part of the work; and so, any person not a graduate of the school may become a member of the Reading Circle upon being recommended by a graduate and paying the required fees. There have been at one time, as many as twenty-two active members who were not graduates.

Special circulars are sent out at the beginning of each year giving full details for study. At the end of the year examination questions are issued and certificates given to those who have satisfactorily completed the work. At the end of four

years diplomas are given for the completion of the course.

The outline for 1891 will be given in the next INDEX, and we earnestly request our present Senior Class to give it careful attention, with a view to joining us at the annual meeting in June.

OUR READERS.

Among the faithful workers who have nearly completed the four years' course and will be ready to receive their diplomas in June, are: Augusta Withington Welsh, '73, Ione; Cora Wyckoff, '85, Oakland; Lizzie Sargent Wilson, '75, San Jose; Amy O'Neal, '80, Valley Spring; Meggie Robb, '86, San Jose; Hattie Wyllie Booksin, '82, San Jose; Belle Bird, '77, San Jose; Rachel Gilmour, '86, Eureka; Hattie Isbister, '87, Sweetland; Ida C. Nichols, '85, Freestone; Abbie Phillips, '86, Lewiston; Alice White David, '76, Sturgeon.

We shall publish before long extracts from the many interesting letters received from members of our Reading Circle, giving glimpses of the practical working of the plan.

Address all communications to the Corresponding Secretary or President.

ANNUAL REUNION.

The annual reunion of the Alumni Association will take place on Thursday evening, June 25th. All members are urged to be present and to give suggestions relative to the well-being of the organization.

The programme will be issued some weeks in advance of the entertainment.

OFFICERS FOR '90-'91.

President—Mrs. Mary Wilson George.
 Vice-Presidents—{Mr. Albert Dornberger.
 {Mr. John H. Herrod.
 {Mr. W. W. Kirkwood.
 {Miss Amy O'Neal.
 {Miss Cornelia Farley.
 Recording Secretary—Miss Jessie Williamson.
 Treasurer and Corresponding Sec'y—Miss Belle Bird.
 Executive Committee—{Miss Susie Rucker.
 {Miss Meggie Robb.

SCIENTIFIC.

HISTORY OF THE HORSE.

As we look about us on this world of living things, we are struck by the great variety of kinds, both of animals and plants. Among the plants we can find thousands of kinds or varieties; and among animals, the insects alone number over two hundred thousand varieties. Now, if the life on the earth is as varied as this, the