

BRIEFER NOTICES.

Appreciations of "The Week."

A GOOD PAPER.

There are several weekly journals in Canada exclusive of religious or special papers. The Toronto WEEK is ahead of them all in the number of subjects it discusses, in its literary character, in its impartial spirit and general fairness. If we were to make any criticism upon it it would be to say that its views of things are somewhat, indeed considerably, affected by its Ontario associations; and yet it must be admitted that it has some good writers who are able to look at matters from even a broad Lower Province standpoint. Its editorial management certainly shows a fair disposition to help the literary, and the higher political, development of the whole country. THE WEEK should, therefore, be encouraged. The reader of the daily newspaper—even of many daily newspapers—will be helped to a thorough digestion of his reading through consideration of topics calmly discussed in a weekly paper of character and good judgment. THE WEEK fairly claims to be "a vigorous non-partisan Canadian literary paper" in which "public questions are calmly discussed, current topics fairly presented, and literary work honestly criticised." It is published at three dollars a year, which is not an unreasonable charge for such a journal, and it has just entered upon its thirteenth volume, with its field of work steadily enlarging.—*The Globe, St. John, New Brunswick.*

THE TORONTO WEEK.

A journal widely and favourably known is the Toronto WEEK. The articles on Canadian and other topics are entitled to a great deal of respect from its readers, as they are the product of the brains of the cleverest and most profoundly erudite men of our period in Canadian life. In its last issue THE WEEK has surpassed itself; independent in tone its comment is more than usually brilliant; Mr. Clarke Wallace's resignation, the National Policy, the abuse and criticism to which public men are subjected by a partisan press, Lord Salisbury's position in regard to religious instructions in schools, Great Britain's attitude in the East, Canadian books, and Mr. Goldwin Smith's latest utterances, all these are made the subject of editorial remark. The present Canadian political situation is also discussed at some length. The evil feeling over race and creed distinctions now being engendered, much to the detriment of our interests, is pointed out. Other articles on Socialism; sketches of the late Alexander Dumas fils and Mr. Herbert Spencer, art notes, criticisms on music and drama, and current periodicals, together with sundry other well-written articles, make up a most complete and enjoyable number.—*Montreal Witness.*

The Dead Loon.

I loitered where a sunless sky
Gloomed o'er a river's margin grey
With flowerless lowlands swept away
To where the Hills of Eden lie.

I listened, for there fell a cry
As from the confines of the day,
Where shadows hung, nor any ray
Of sunlight shot the gloom. On high,

A dark bird wandered to and fro,
As one who seeks in alien lands,
A friend where tides of battle flow—
Ah! poor bird crying as with pain,
Ah! poor bird crying through the rain,
Thy love lies dead here on the sands.

HELEN M. MERRILL.

Letters to the Editor.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION IN MANITOBA.

SIR,—Will you give me leave to add a few words to the admirable letter of Mr. J. L. Hughes, published in the Orange Sentinel and in the morning papers, on the Manitoba question. It seems to the present writer that Mr. Hughes's line is the right, the just, the sensible one, and it is much to be hoped that the members of the Orange societies will give heed to what he says. Mr. Hughes says, in effect, that Orangeism is no organization formed against Romanism any more than against Mahometanism or any-

Cricket. By Elizabeth Westyn Timlow. (Boston: Estes and Lauriat.)—"Cricket" should prove a very enjoyable book for juveniles. It is a narrative of the haps and mishaps of a little girl and her friends, and the authoress has told her story in a very interesting manner. The book combines brightness and interest, with purity and simplicity.

Inmates of my House and Garden. By Mrs. Eliza Brightwen. (New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co.)—This is an interesting volume of some twenty chapters. Mrs. Brightwen describes animal life in captivity as well as in freedom, displaying throughout an enthusiastic devotion for her pets. She writes of lemurs, squirrels, birds, tortoises, and insects, dealing most lovingly with all, and deserving praise for her method of treatment. The publishers also deserve credit, for the book is well printed, neatly bound, and artistically illustrated.

Minor Dialogues. By W. Pett Ridge. (New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co.)—These "Minor Dialogues" by Mr. Ridge are capitally done. They deal with various classes of places and people around London, and are written in a clever, piquant manner. These dialogues have already appeared in the *St. James' Gazette*, the *Pall Mall Budget*, *Black and White*, and several other London periodicals, but their republication in book form is well deserved. The dialogues are thirty in number, and it would be making an invidious comparison to single out any for special notice.

From a New England Hillside. By William Potts. (New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co.)—The writer of this little volume of sketches is evidently a man of much sentiment, and blessed with a love for out-door life. The sketches, some sixty in number, extend over a period of a year, during which the writer was occupied in erecting a country home—the "Underledge" of the book. Many a sound philosophical reflection is to be found in its pages, mingled with the breath of the summer air, the crackling of the dying leaves in autumn, and the crispness of the winter snows. The book seems filled with a manly optimism, a serene faith in the beneficence of a universal Providence.

Children's Stories in American Literature. By Henrietta Christian Wright. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.)—"Children's Stories in American Literature" makes a capital book for presentation to young people, and is well worth the attention of older ones. The volume consists of some seventeen chapters, each one of which is devoted to a brief account of the life and works of some leading American writer in the various fields of literature. We notice such names as Cooper, Audubon, Irving, Poe, Hawthorne, Emerson, Prescott, Lowell and Parkman. It would be useless to single out any particular portions of the work for special notice, as each chapter has its own peculiar interest, and all are well written. This is the sort of book which should be placed in the hands of every boy and girl, combining as it does information with entertainment.

H.A.B

The Individual and the State: An Essay on Justice. By T. W. Taylor, Jr., M.A., Barrister, Manitoba. (Boston, U.S.A., and London: Ginn & Co.)—This well-written work of 88 pages is to a great extent metaphysical and states the ideas of justice in ancient and modern times; 53 authors being quoted from. There is much curious information in it, but sometimes there is a lack of clearness which is often the case in metaphysics, or in subjects discussed from that standpoint. At p. 80 the author says: "A common notion which belongs properly to Asiatic countries, is that courts exist to administer justice; in reality they exist to administer law; whether that law is in accord with justice is a question for legislators, not for judges." But it commonly happens that law is practically justice, and one of many objects of precise law is, to prevent the individual caprice of judges or law administrators from deciding between men. Apparently the work is by a young man, but one who will make his mark. As his mind grows his views will become modified, and his ideas more precise. The work would have been better by the addition of a table of contents, and also by a summary of conclusions at the end.