

is from them that we find how low the standard of education is in our sister province. Their statistical tables shew us that only 42 per cent. can read well, and but 34 per cent. fluently; 60 per cent. only are in writing, and 57 per cent. in arithmetic. Many scholars leave school without the ability to write their names. With facts like these before us we must re-echo what appears with persistent iteration as their opinion that the system of instruction in Quebec must be vastly improved before these schools will turn out either good citizens or good men; that if her population is to be a self-governing one, taking an active and intelligent interest in public affairs, they must be subjected to better mental and moral discipline than they are at present.

With this Report before us we may be pardoned for indulging in a little self-felicitation over our own excellent school system. We are in the happy condition of the Spanish beauty who has the companionship of an ugly duenna to add to her charms.

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CHEMISTRY OF COMMON LIFE, by James F. W. Johnston, M.A., etc. New edition, revised and brought down to the present time by A. H. Church, M.A. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

Our older readers will remember that the first publication of this work, twenty-five years ago, opened up a mine of knowledge to the general public on matters which deeply concerned their health and life. We have often wished for a reprint of the work which would embody the results of the latest investigations and discoveries on the subjects of which it treats. Mr. Church has

stepped forward and more than gratified our wish. Himself a skillful chemist, and one accustomed to put in a popular form scientific knowledge bearing upon the health and comfort of the people, he has made it a labour of love, as well as duty, in preparing this edition for the press, to incorporate whatever fresh information could be had upon each subject, so that he might make the work as complete as possible up to the present time.

Mr. Johnston's original design was to make the book a manual for schools; his accomplished editor has adhered to that design throughout, and completed it by a new chapter on "The Colours we admire."

Now that we have the teaching of Hygiene among our school subjects, we know of no better book for a teacher to have at hand to assist him, not only in giving rational information and instruction upon matters that concern health, but in shewing to his scholars the scientific basis of what he teaches. The titles of a few of the chapters will indicate the thoroughly practical character of the work for the use we indicate: "The Air we Breathe," "The Water we Drink," "The Soil we Cultivate," "The Bread we Eat," "The Beef we Cook," "The Beverages we Infuse," "The Liquors we Ferment," "The Narcotics we Indulge in," "The Smells we Dislike," "What we Breathe and Breathe for," "What, How, and Why we Digest," "The Body we Cherish." Not the least of the attractions of the book is the pleasant style in which it is written. It has numerous wood cuts, and the paper, binding and typography are particularly suited for the volume as a hand-book.