

CANADIAN MAGAZINE BANQUET.

THE annual banquet of The Canadian Magazine—a new idea conceived by the intelligent enterprise of the management and of the editor, Mr. John A. Cooper—was held in Toronto, February 17. It was a meeting of authors and persons interested in literary work and book-making. Among those present were: Dr. Bourinot, of Ottawa; Dr. W. H. Drummond, of Montreal; Dr. George Stewart, of Quebec; Principal Parkin, O. A. Howland, M.P.P.; Lieut.-Col. Geo. T. Denison; J. S. Willison, of The Globe; Alexander Muir, Edmund Sheppard, W. R. Riddell, Frank Yeigh, George Brigden, F. Brigden, A. Fleming, Gordon Waldron, G. M. Rose, the editor of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, and others.

The speeches were excellent, and a good deal was said that bears upon the practical part of literature, namely, the marketing of books. Mr. Byron E. Walker, in some pointed remarks upon the lack of encouragement to art, in which he said that the rich men of Toronto should do more for art, made the opening, and others followed.

Dr. Bourinot said that a certain class of books issued in Canada had no claim to be called literature, yet they, and the book agent, met with success. He complained that a good bookstore was not patronized as it ought to be, and was sorry to see so many second-hand bookstores in Toronto. He had lately made a list of Canadian books issued during the last ten years and found they amounted to over 150. He complained that newspapers devoted space to the football slugger, or the man who won a prize in a guessing contest, but neglected literature.

Mr. John A. Cooper, editor of The Canadian Magazine, in proposing the toast to "Our Poets," said that the Canadian poets were men whom we all love and admire, but whose books we do not read. (Laughter.) Canada has writers such as Roberts, Carman, Campbell, Lampman, the two Scotts, Jean Blewett, and numbers of others, who are bringing Canadian learning and talent to the notice of the people of the United States and of England, and are doing more in this direction than Canadian publishers, politicians and educationists. He had received a letter from the editor of The National Review in compliment to the class of poetry published in The Canadian Magazine, which was of a higher class than that published in English magazines. The poets of Canada do not work with the hope of monetary reward, but because they love what is good noble and true, and they have been fired with a patriotic zeal, which marks the true citizen. They have taught us to love Canada and to appreciate her magnificent lakes and mountains and her rolling prairies.

We cannot point to a grey-headed sage as the national poet, nor to a volume of national poems; nor have we poets to compare with the best of England or of the United States, but it must be attributed in a great measure to Canada's youth and the scattered position of the population. In 25 or 30 years more Canada may have poets to rank with the best of the United States or England.

Dr. W. H. Drummond, author of the dialect poems of French-Canadian life and character, alluded in appreciative terms to Dr. Louis Frechette, the poet laureate who had been crowned by the French Academy and who was prevented from being present by illness. Dr. Drummond recited one of his own poems, and it was received with such rapturous enthusiasm that he complied with the wish for another. He said it should be the aim in Canada to understand and appreciate the French-Canadians. The impression made upon the gathering by Dr. Drummond was that of a vigorous personality who has mastered the pathos as well as the humor of the habitant, and who presents a telling picture of a picturesque type of people struggling to express themselves in the half-patois, half-dialect language in which our Quebec fellow-countrymen strive to master the hard Anglo-Saxon tongue. It is said that Dr. Drummond proposes to publish a volume of his poems, and there is little doubt that it would prove very attractive to English-Canadian readers.

A good many allusions were made during the evening to the newspapers and their share in discouraging the reading of books and their responsibility for the use of slipshod English. Mr. J. S. Willison, editor of The Globe, who was present, was expected to meet this point as a thoroughly representative journalist of the higher type. The hour was late, however, and he contented himself with dealing briefly and good humoredly with the criticisms of the press. He said that the critics had few opportunities of airing their grievances against the press, while the newspapers had a chance every day. (Laughter.) He had no doubt that as far as the attacks made on the present occasion were concerned, the account would ultimately be squared. (Laughter.) Allusion had been made to Sara Jeannette Duncan, and her success abroad. This talented lady had begun her literary work as a member of The Globe staff. He did not think it could fairly be said that newspapers failed to encourage literary workers. To be candid, as other speakers had been, he thought that Canadian literature suffered from being over-praised and over-indulged. Too many Canadian writers were so provincial that they could not receive independent, rational, intelligent criticism. Although

Canadian journalism had its faults, he was prepared to believe that outside of Great Britain the fairest and the most independent journalism in the world to-day was that of Canada. (Hear, hear.) Dr. Bourinot had referred to a case of a distinguished Canadian who had recently passed away and whose death was not noticed in the Canadian papers. He had said that he was a member of the Royal Society. That being the case it had naturally been concluded that he was dead years ago. (Laughter.) Mr. Willison concluded by declaring that Canadian journalism was ready to stand upon its own merits, measured by the world's standard, and by paying a tribute to The Canadian Magazine.

The whole affair was a marked success, unique in its way, and a creditable attempt to bring together Canadian literary men, so that they could say a good word for books and the value of books to the nation.

NEW BOOKS.

CANADIAN.

KAYE, LORIN—Her Ladyship's Income. Paper, 75c. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

WIGGIN, KATE DOUGLAS—Marm Lisa. Paper, 75c. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

HUNT, VIOLET—The Way of Marriage. Cloth, \$1.25; paper, 75c. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

GRAHAM, P. ANDERSON—The Red Scaur. A novel of manners. Cloth, \$1.25. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

LE QUEUX, WILLIAM—Devil's Dice. Cloth, \$1.25; paper, 75c. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

NORDAU, MAX—The Malady of the Century. Cloth, \$1.25. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

LARCHEY, LOREDAN—Translated from the French by Mrs. M. Carey. The narrative of Captain Coignet, soldier of the Empire, 1776-1850. Cloth, \$1.25. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

FENN, G. MANVILLE—Cursed by a Fortune. Cloth, \$1.25. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

GORING—With introduction by Richard. Richard Cobden and the Jubilee of Free Trade. Cloth, \$1.25. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

SHIELD, A.—The Squire of Wandales. Paper, 75c. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

HUNGERFORD, MRS.—An Anxious Moment. Cloth, \$1.25. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.

WESTALL, WILLIAM—With the Red Eagle. An historical romance. Cloth, \$1.25. Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.