

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

THE ART OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT. By J. Baldwin, President of the State Normal School, Kirksville, Missouri. New York : D. Appleton & Co, 1884.

ON page thirty-eight of the Regulations for County Model Schools, authorised by the Department of Education, August 14th, 1884, we find the name of this work on the list of compulsory text-books for the teachers in training, and therefore propose very briefly to review it for the benefit of our readers.

We have searched its pages for that dignity in thought and expression which should characterise any work on this subject put into the hands of young teachers—and we have searched in vain.

While frankly admitting that it contains much that is excellent, we are sorry to find the author using gross exaggeration. For example on page sixty-nine—"This grimness is not confined to male teachers, there are thousands of lady teachers who long since forgot how to smile, at least, in a sweet and loving manner. . . . The lady is tall, pale, wears glasses and never smiles; and yet is one of the noblest of women. Her pupils seem to have copied her. They look anxious and pale; wrinkles are on their young brows; life seems scarcely worth living. They become an easy prey to disease and death."

In speaking of "Spelling Reform" the author dogmatically remarks, "The change must come." Yet, perhaps, there are many wiser men than the president of the State Normal School, Missouri, who would hesitate to say any such thing.

Again we object very much to the spirit of an anecdote on page 191, in regard to "boy and girl love," and the method employed to "cure" it, poor "Alfred and Lena" being kept in and told that "I wanted them to look at each other," and subjected to "the laughter of the school," etc.

It is not at all surprising to read on a subsequent page, "With all my heart I favour co-education," though one cannot help thinking that poor humiliated Alfred and Lena will be ready to wish they had not been led into temptation.

There is at least one word used by the author, which is marked [vulgar] in Worcester's Dictionary, and another which cannot be found at all, either in Webster or Worcester, although (see p. 54) these are the two dictionaries that the author recommends for school libraries.

We ask our readers to ponder carefully whether the study of a book like this will exercise a good influence on the young teachers at the Model School. It is simply and solely a work for American Schools, and by no means the best of its kind, and as such we submit that it cannot be entirely suitable as the sole professional text-book for the County Model Schools of Ontario.

THE TEACHER; HINTS ON SCHOOL MANAGEMENT. By J. R. Blakiston, M.A. Camb. London: Macmillan & Co., 1883.

THIS is, without doubt, one of the best and most practical books on teaching that we have lately had the pleasure of examining. The teacher of the present day to be successful must get out of the old fashioned routine of a decade since. He must adopt common sense methods, both of management and teaching. Mr Blakiston has kept this fact firmly in mind, and he has succeeded in giving us a book in which we have not been able to discover a single idea which may not be put into practice by any teacher of average qualification for his profession.

Passing by the introduction which contains some useful hints on school-buildings and sanitary regulations, we come to the first division on Management. Here the author strikes a key which is in itself enough