

SPONGY IRON AS A FILTER.—In the Sixth Report of the Rivers Commissioners it is stated that the best results with artificial filtration were obtained from a spongy-metallic iron. During continuous filtration through this medium for eight months the Commissioner obtained most satisfactory results. Thames water assumes, under the influence of spongy iron, the chemical character of deep well water, that is to say, water 'which contains the smallest proportion of organic matter, and is almost always bright, sparkling, palatable, and wholesome.

THE WAR AND CHARITY.—An exchange gives a long list of the large sums contributed in Russia by municipalities, societies and individuals, in aid of the sick and wounded soldiers, and can hardly help thinking, with the 'pious editor' of the 'Biglow Papers,' 'that bombshells, grape, an' powder 'n' ball air goodwill's strongest magnets,' and 'that peace, to make it stick at all, must be druv in with bagnets.'

The race of mankind would perish did they cease to aid each other. From the time that the mother binds the child's head, till the moment that some kind assistant wipes the death-damp from the brow of the dying, we cannot exist without mutual help. All, therefore, that need aid, have a right to ask it of their fellow mortals; no one who holds the power of granting can refuse it without guilt.

BOOK NOTICES.

THE CANADIAN MONTHLY AND NATIONAL REVIEW. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

The October number of this Magazine, is, as usual, full of good things. We are given a large instalment of William Black's 'Green Pastures and Piccadilly,' also, 'Titles in Canada,' a short but very good poem, 'De Profundis,' 'Fidelis' concluding rejoinder on 'The Temperance Question' and several other articles. 'Current Events' in the Monthly we have always regarded as one of its most valuable parts. The unbiassed, independent remarks and criticisms on political matters in Canada in it, afford utter relief, often a month of 'Daily' prejudiced extremes from the two political 'sides.' 'Round the Table' is proving an agreeable, refreshing part, and in this number, 'Is the World getting Better or Worse?' the 'Telephone,' and 'Making and Eating Jam,' are well 'served.'

BELFORD'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE. Toronto: Belford Bros.

In the October number of this periodical we find the continuation of 'Up the Thames' profusely illustrated. This forms a very pleasing feature, which we hope will be continued in the Magazine. The concluding chapters are given of 'Nichols as Minturn,'—a very good story, with a moral; though the author rather strains real life in making Benson so plain for, and succeed in, misleading the public as to the cause of his death. Where were the detectives and experts in *post mortems* and toxicology? Any man might get hanged. Another interesting fragment of the war of 1812, by Dr. Canniff; an 'Evening in the Library,' with Whittier; a nice little Canadian 'Story of a Flirt,' and considerable other matter make up a good number.