

SIR ARTHUR HELPS' BOOKS.

Well does the learned Caxton insist, in one of his charming digressions, that books are the medicine of the mind; and therefore, when the news of Arthur Helps' death arrived, we felt a sorrow as sincere as of late when there passed away from among us one whose skill and sympathy were ever ready in our physical ailments to alleviate or to heal, for we knew that in Helps we had lost one of those physicians of the mind to whom our debt of gratitude is the deeper because the medicine can never be exhausted. Like the volumes which describe the life of the inimitable Caxton, there are some of Helps' works which seem almost faultless. Books which are an unmixed good, from which no sentiment can be struck out to mend the matter, and most certainly no word can be changed to mend the manner, in which no discordant note jars upon the overwrought brain with ever so slight a tremor.

In reading these books we can contemplate our daily life with a peculiar detachment of feeling, pertaining not to mysticism, but to practical wisdom. We toil in our work too much, as our author puts it, with the excitement of gamblers, instead of working with the calmness of day-labourers; but, when we turn aside to the perusal of such works as these, we are no longer choked with the dust of the arena or jostled by the throng of the market. We can dwell, not with scorn but with pity, on the many meannesses of our lives, and take comfort with quiet joy in the nobleness which, thank God, often redeems them. In Helps we do not find that active intelligent selfishness, passing commonly for practical wisdom, which appropriates and, with strong digestion, absorbs into self everything its long arms can reach or its strong suckers fasten to, but we learn a wisdom which gives more than it takes and grows richer in its wealth of sympathy, which joins to the widest experience of life and business the most loving recognition of the struggles towards right of even the most wilful of poor fallible mortals. This wisdom is practical for it is perennial, and as suitable to make life endurable in the present condition of the world as we are compelled to believe it will in a state of society where there is nothing to be grabbed or nothing to be absorbed. Some of Arthur Helps' writings are true medicines. Alternative and tonic, they help us to do our work more faithfully; and sedative, in that they tend to guard us against over much care-taking. They are not religious works in the ordinary sense, because an intolerance of dogma runs through them all, but they are full of religiousness, for they exalt the duty and beauty attainable in every day life.—*Montreal Gazette.*

WATCH THE BOOKS.

How large a proportion of mothers and guardians exercise anything which can be called watchful care as to what books and papers the children shall read? And yet the booksellers' shelves groan under the weight of the most dissipating, weakening, and insidious books that can possibly be imagined; and newspapers which ought never to enter any decent house lie on the table of many a family sitting-room. Any one who will take the trouble to examine the records of any large circulating library will be astonished at the immense demand which there is for these average novels. And, in our parlours and chambers to-day, myriads of little girls are curled up in corners, poring over such reading—stories of complicated modern society, the very worst kind of reading for a child; stories "whose exciting pages delight in painting the love of the sexes for each other." And the mothers do not know what they are reading; and the children answer, when asked what they read: "Oh anything that comes along!"—*Anna C. Brackett.*

X. Educational Intelligence.

—**ONTARIO SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.**—An interesting account of the first examination held in this School is given in the *Globe* of the 16th inst. Want of space precludes a report of the proceedings, but they appear to have been very gratifying. The School has been successfully managed by Mr. Johnson the Rector. (See article on the School on page 53.)

—**LINDSAY LORETTO CONVENT.**—We have received an interesting account of this building, the substance of which we hope to give in the next *Journal*.

—**CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE.**—The closing exercises of the 36th session of the Congregational College of B. N. A. were held a few days ago in Zion Church, Montreal. The Rev. Charles Chapman, M.A., Chairman of the College Board, presided, and amongst other things announced that the students were, if desirous of obtaining a secular training, afforded the advantage of a literary course in McGill College. Rev. Dr. Wilkes, the Principal, in reviewing the work done during the past session, stated that the students had been instructed and examined in systematic theology, Church history, homiletics, history of the Canon, and Old Testament instruction. Additional lectures were given on Isaiah, the Evidences of Christianity, Greek Exegesis, and Elocution. Most of the students attended lectures at McGill College during the winter, and those belonging to the theological

classes were also engaged in mission work. The endowment fund, which was reported last year at \$17,688, has increased to \$23,000, and will, it is hoped, before long, reach \$40,000. The Rev. F. H. Marling, of Toronto, delivered an earnest and practical address on "The Cure of Souls," to those who were about to go forth to begin the work of the ministry.—*Liberal.*

—**TRINITY COLLEGE.**—Rev. Professor Ambery, M.A., leaves this University on the 1st of October next. He proposes to open "Trinity Hall," Mountain View, Hamilton, as a School for boys, in September.

—**TRINITY COLLEGE UNIVERSITY.**—At a recent convocation, the following degrees were conferred by Rev. Provost Whitaker, Vice-Chancellor; M.B.—J. S. Atkinson, G. Baptie, J. C. Boulee, A. Bray, G. H. Burnham, A. B. Cook, J. R. Clarke, E. J. Freil, T. Hobley, W. Kennedy, A. Leitch, A. Lynd, J. C. Mitchell, C. McLarty, W. Minaker, D. Nunan, U. A. Powell, E. W. Rae, G. A. S. Ryerson, E. P. Sylvester, M. D. Stark, A. J. Sinclair, J. D. Wilson, J. Wishart; M.D.—T. W. Read, A. L. McLaren, Dr. Hodder then introduced to the Bishop those who succeeded in gaining the gold and silver medals, and also those to whom certificates of honour had been granted, and said that Mr. C. McLarty had gained the highest prize conferred by the University, namely, the University Gold Medal. Mr. N. A. Powell had succeeded in earning for himself a name which few men of his standing were able to do; he had obtained the University Silver Medal, and also the surgical prize presented by the United States Faculty. Mr. G. P. Sylvester had gained the University Medical Faculty Gold Medal; and Mr. M. D. Stark obtained the University Medical Faculty Silver Medal. The whole of the students had worked most assiduously during the session, and especially those gentlemen on whom the several degrees had been conferred. The Bishop then handed to the above-named gentlemen their prizes, congratulating each on the success he had attained; and after which he addressed the meeting, and congratulated Dr. Hodder on the great advance which the medical institution in connection with Trinity College appeared to have made in the short period it has been in progress. Last year he had the pleasure of being present, when his gratification certainly was very high at the testimony given of those who received prizes, and the evidence afforded that those on whom honours had been conferred gave promise of usefulness in their profession in after life. He wished God-speed to this portion of the University for all time to come. The benediction was then pronounced by the Bishop, and the meeting closed.—*Globe.*

—**M'GILL UNIVERSITY.**—At the recent Law and Medical Convocation at McGill College, Montreal, it was stated out of the 129 students attending the lectures during the past session, there were from Quebec but 48 against 67 from Ontario; three each came from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; P. E. Island, 1; West Indies, 2; United States, 5. After devotional exercises, the Secretary, W. C. Baynes, B.A., read the minutes of last meeting, whereupon the result of the Medical Examinations was read by Dr. George W. Campbell, M.A., Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, as follows: The following gentlemen, 32 in number, have passed their primary examinations on the following subjects: Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry, Materia Medica and Pharmacy, Institutes of Medicine, Botany and Zoology; also 31 gentlemen have fulfilled all the requirements to entitle them to the degree of M.D., C.M., from this University. These exercises consist in examinations, both written and oral, on the following subjects:—Theory and Practice of Surgery, Theory and Practice of Medicine, Obstetrics and diseases of women and children, Medical Jurisprudence and Hygiene, and also Clinical examinations in Medicine and Surgery, conducted at the bedside in the Hospital. The Valedictory was delivered by Dr. James M. Nelles, of Brantford, Ontario. It was long, but both interesting and at times amusing. He alluded in fitting terms to the approaching severance of the ties which had bound together teachers and pupils, and hoped the former would be long held in remembrance. The education they had received in *Alma Mater* was now to be made use of, and he desired that they would do their best to uphold her good name, by being zealous in the cause for which they had devoted so much persevering study. He advocated the pursuance of the medical profession rather for the purpose of doing good to mankind than to amass wealth. He considered the students of the past were fully up to those of the present and as fully well behaved in point of manners and morals. In this connection he gave some practical advice to students, advising if they wished to be successful to avoid theatres, saloons, etc. He warmly thanked the ladies for their attendance, and the influence which their favour had exercised on the students who were then departing; and asked a continuation of that interest in those who would from time to time hereafter become students. Dr. W. Osler, Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, then delivered a well timed address to the graduates, in which he said rested with themselves to a great extent as to how successful they were in future; for medicine was a progressive science, requiring constant and careful study. He alluded to the use of liquor in medical practice as a thing to be carefully watched, in order to prevent its use as a medicine degenerating into its consumption as a beverage. After remarks concerning the prosecution of unlicensed practitioners, he concluded by wishing the graduates, in the name of the Faculty, every possible success.

FACULTY OF LAW.—W. H. Kerr, Esq., Q.C., then read the following list of names, prizemen and graduates in the Law department:—The degree of B. C. L. was then conferred on those who had graduated, and Mr. JOHN SMITHE HALL delivered the Valedictory, a forcible, brief and yet comprehensive address; he alluded to what was expected of the graduates on their entering their sphere of labour, and warmly thanked the Professors, on behalf of himself and classmates, for the interest taken by the former on their behalf. Prof. H. F. RAINVILLE, LL.B., addressed the graduates in French on behalf of the Faculty, after which Principal Dawson, said: We had expected that the Chancellor of the University would have been present on this occasion; but the effects of a recent severe illness, from which, however, we are happy to know that he is rapidly recovering, prevent. We hope that he will occupy his accustomed place in the approaching meeting of Convocation for conferring degrees in Arts on the 3rd of May. We have to-day to mourn the recent departure from among us of one of the most eminent benefactors of this University, Mr. William Molson, of whom the Hall in which we meet is one of the memorials. Mr. Molson's personal character and public virtues are too well known to require any eulogy from us, but his influence in the growth of this University, and especially the Faculty of Arts, belongs