

"We must pull upon the wire—
Till we draw ourselves in shoreward,
'Tis our only hope of safety."
And they drew them by the wire,
Hand o'er hand upon the wire,
While the barbs still pierced their fingers,
Till they gained the shore in safety.

Thus was saved the life of Birdie,
She, the beauty of the village,
The delight of all the people!
And the restless Coralinda,

She, who wandered by the water,
For the soothing of its murmur.
Never more upon the Maitland
Will her skiff be found at morning,
Or at even, when the sunset,
Burns upon the lake and river;
For the horror of the wire—
Oh! the horror of the wire,
That fell snare upon the river,
It will haunt her days forever.

CLARA H. MOUNTCASTLE.

CLINTON, Ont.

BOOK NOTICES.

Rational Memory Training. By B. F. Austin, A.M., B.D. *The Journal Publishers*, St. Thomas.

This valuable contribution to educational literature is written by the Principal of Alma College. The chief aim of the author is to show the fallacy of attempting to train memory by any of the so called special systems of mnemonics, and to present a clear method for the natural development of this great power based on true physical and psychical conditions. The book is an admirable classification and analysis of the views of Bain, Ribot, Carpenter, Wundt, Spencer, Delbœuf, Maudsley, Hamilton, Liebnitz and others. The physiological basis of memory is accepted, and Ribot's definition, "a rich and well stored memory is not a collection of impressions, but an assemblage of dynamic associations, very stable and very readily called forth," is taken as correct. On this basis the author proceeds to explain the laws which govern memory, and to state processes for strengthening it. This he does logically and definitely, but in very simple language. One of the most natural but not commonly practised suggestions is that the most defective part of memory needs most practice. The statistical results of experiments made in Germany, England, and the United States, are interwoven so artistically as to be really interesting, and many facts and illustrations enrich the theoretical statements. The author forcibly presents the ethical view of memory, and shows the moral obligation resting on each individual of having a good memory. He shows clearly the bad effects of the school processes that attempt to cram the memory with undigested matter, and with lessons in which the children are not deeply and naturally interested. The relative permanence of ideas received by sight and sound is discussed, and simple instructions are given for the guidance of teachers in testing their pupils. The closing chapter contains practical suggestions, and a few mnemonic rules are given, which may, in the opinion of the author, be used with profit.

The book is worthy of a more enduring form than that in which the first edition has been issued.—J. L. H.

The Medical Profession in Upper Canada, 1783-1850. An historical narrative, with original documents relating to the profession, including some brief biographies, by Wm. Canniff, M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng., author of "The Principles of Surgery," "Settlement of Upper Canada." Illustrated. Toronto: William Briggs, 1894.

The work before us is a handsome volume of nearly 700 pp. The first part deals with the Pioneer Medical men, the second part with the Upper Canada Medical Board, and the third part with biographical sketches of early physicians of the Province.

Under these several headings a vast amount of information has been collected. After a careful perusal of this volume, the conclusion is forced upon the reader that the medical men of this Province have taken a very active part in its settlement and in the moulding of its policy.

Name after name of those who took a foremost part in social and political reforms is found to belong to the medical profession. In the war of 1812, in the rebellion of 1837, in the founding of Upper Canada, in the Union, in the establishment of educational institutions, etc., the names of medical men figure prominently.

It would be quite impossible to give an epitome of this work in a short review. The subject matter is greatly condensed. We think every physician should have a copy of this work. Indeed, every one who takes an interest in the history of this Province should read carefully the excellent matter which the author has gathered together. The style is easy and natural, and the numerous anecdotes are well told. The illustrations are many and good; but we miss one man that certainly should have a place—Joseph Workman. When we saw the faces of Richardson, Hodder, Wright, Widmer, etc., there was a feeling of disappointment that Workman's was absent.

The make up of the book is excellent. It is equal in all respects to the work done by the oldest and best known publishing houses. We heartily commend the work to medical men, and lovers of Canadian history. J. F.