

the Canadian teacher of French has within his reach a very valuable book of reference.

There is a Canadian edition of this work, in which the historical and biographical section has been prepared and published expressly for Canadians by Beauchemin & Fils, Montreal. In the latest edition (1896) this part has been revised and enlarged, and contains 304 pages, comprising nearly 11,000 articles, about 5,000 of which refer to Canada. It is illustrated by 260 portraits, about half of which are those of Canadians. The portraits are small, and some of them are indistinct, but for the most part they are well executed. In the biographical sketches the preference is given to Canadian celebrities; those who in earlier times laid the foundation of New France, as well as those who in more recent years have contributed so largely to the glory and reunion of this Canada of ours—Champlain, Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Alex. Mackenzie, etc. All this is no doubt useful and interesting, and yet, as this information is more accessible to Canadians than is similar information regarding France, probably the Paris edition of the dictionary is the one best suited to the needs of the Canadian teacher.

Both editions are sold at such a low figure as to bring them within the reach of every one. The Canadian edition, in pasteboard covers, sells at 75 cents. The Paris edition is a little dearer, but may be procured for about \$1. Both of them can be obtained from Beauchemin & Fils, Libraires-Imprimeurs, 256 and 258 Rue Saint Paul, Montreal.—B. K.

The year 1897 has been marked by the appearance of two works of the greatest value to all who in any way study modern languages, and more particularly French. These books are the "Chrestomathie

française," by A. Rambeau and J. Passy, and the "Dictionnaire phonétique de la langue française," by H. Michaelis and P. Passy.

The "Chrestomathie" is by far the most important work in French phonetic literature that has yet appeared, with the possible exception of the "Dictionnaire phonétique." It contains nearly 250 pages, mostly made up of specimens of different sorts of French, in handsome phonetic type on one page with the key in ordinary characters on the opposite page. The introduction, which forms above thirty additional pages, contains a discussion, as valuable as it is original, of the best methods of teaching languages, and gives a masterly and succinct view of the nature of French sounds, with practical directions for overcoming common English faults in pronouncing them.

In this latter particular it is for us more suggestive than P. Passy's "Sons du français," which has proved to be a very successful work. There is not a page of the introduction to the "Chrestomathie" that is not full of assistance to any one who is seeking to form a correct French pronunciation, or to learn to use the language. The main body of the work is divided into three parts. The first begins with extracts in double transcription, to show the differences between slow and rapid delivery, and then gives a series of amusing anecdotes turning on peculiarities or faults of pronunciation; followed by a collection of conundrums depending on puns, and ends by familiar prose and poetry. The second part contains more dignified prose, among which we find the now widely celebrated address of Gaston Paris on the Song of Roland and French nationality, delivered during the siege of Paris in 1870. The third part contains some forty pieces of poetry and a scene