

employed in preventing diseases, not by the administration of drugs, but by the application of those sanitary laws which science reveals—in fact, in keeping people well rather than curing them when ill. The distinguished surgical reputation of the author lends great weight to the opinions expressed in this essay.

*The Canadian Educational Directory and Year Book for 1876.* By ALEXANDER MARLING, LL.B., Chief Clerk, Educational Department, Ontario. 8vo. 224 pp. Toronto: Hunter, Rose, & Co.

THIS useful volume contains an account of the elementary, normal, and secondary schools, and of the universities and colleges, and schools for the deaf, dumb, and blind, etc., of the entire Dominion; together with digests of the School Laws and a vast amount of educational statistics. Where we have tested it we have found it remarkably full and accurate.

*Waterloo: a Sequel to the Conscript of 1813.* Translated from the French of MM. ERCKMANN-CHATRAIN. 12mo. pp. 368. New York: Scribner & Co.; Toronto: S. Rose.

THE stories of MM. Erckmann-Chatrain constitute a new departure in French literature. Nothing can be a stronger contrast to the morbid and immoral fiction by which that beautiful language is polluted. These stories are simple, sweet, wholesome, pure. They portray the joys and sorrows of peasant-life, and with vivid, tragic power lay bear the holowness of military glory, and the awful sufferings caused by war. The volume under notice, which is not a recent one, is the narrative, by an old Alsatian peasant, of the part he bore in his youth in the terrible wars of Napoleon. The awful scenes of Waterloo are described with painfully graphic powers. We look not upon a magnificent battle-piece such as is described on the page of history, but we follow the story of this

simple peasant, torn, like thousands of others, from the embrace of his family, and marched through scenes of slaughter by the reckless ambition of one man. We listen to the narration of his sufferings, of his hunger, thirst, wounds, weariness, fear, rage, and despair. We see depicted the cruelty of conquest, the agony and shame of defeat, the wreck and ruin of the pell-mell retreat, and the havoc and devastation caused by the occupation of France by a foreign foe. The moral of the tale, as expressed by the narrator, is one that France needs to ponder well:

"Father Goulden was right when he said that military glory costs very dear. I only hope the Lord will save us from it for ages to come."

The book will give a more vivid conception of the condition of France under the Empire than volumes of stilted history, and cannot fail to convey a more adequate apprehension and intense detestation of the horrors of war.

*The Popular Science Monthly for April.* D. Appleton & Co., New York.

THIS is a very interesting number. The leading article, by Huxley, shows how difficult it is to define the exact limit between the animal and vegetable kingdoms. A full account is given of the proposed project for flooding the African Sahara; also a novel theory about the antarctic Polar glaciers as a counterpoise to the excess of land in the Northern hemisphere. A steel portrait and interesting sketch of Caroline Herschell, the sister and co-worker of the great astronomer, is also given. Perhaps the most important article is that giving an account of Dr. Tyndall's recent investigations on the subject of spontaneous generation. He has just succeeded, after a long and beautiful series of experiments, in demonstrating that Dr. Bastien's cases of so-called spontaneous generation of life resulted from the presence of minute germs in the air or water submitted