

general character, that it was intended to make it less such than one of an attractive literary character, blended with scientific accuracy, in which the former trait should predominate. Under this view the author has been most singularly fortunate, for if we mistake not, this is the first Canadian work of scientific pretensions of which the public has required a second edition within the short period of twelve months. It tells much for the attractive style in which it has been written, but it tells more, and it gives us the greatest pleasure in saying it, for the good taste of our Canadian youth, who have shewn their appreciation of it.

We do not like, however, the style in which the publisher has performed his share of the labour. The duodecimo size is a most objectionable form for a Library volume, and we cannot but think that a better quality of paper might have been obtained; the paper is barely white, and so thin that the printing on one side can be almost read on the other; at any rate the black lettering is plainly visible through the leaf. Now this ought not to be. If a work is deemed worthy of publication in book form, it is surely worth, if worth anything at all, good paper, to say nothing of a proper size of the volume. At the utmost, it is the matter at most of a few dollars, and we regret to see such a sacrifice made at the shrine of mammon.

We sincerely trust that the esteemed author will be soon called on again for a third edition, and while he will thus have had time to increase the list of his feathered species, we trust that he will not take unkindly the hints given in the last paragraph. Every one who has the progress of Canadian Literature at heart must feel some interest in the manner in which our books appear in regard to their artistic finish.

The volume has been dedicated, with great propriety, to Sir E. P. Taché, who has taken a deep interest in the development of the resources of our fine country.

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ART. LXVIII.—*Report of a Committee of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, on the alleged dangers which accompany the inhalation of the vapour of Sulphuric Ether.* Boston: David Clapp, 1861, pptt. p. 36.

A few months ago, as appeared in the pages of this Journal, a Committee was appointed by the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, to investigate the dangers arising from the anaesthesia produced by Ether, Chloroform, and Chloric Ether. This Committee consisted of Drs. Hodges, Howard, Townsend, Jackson, and Upham, with Dr. Minot as Secretary. Their request, soliciting any information on the subject, was published in all quarters, and after having waited several months, the result of the enquiries of the Committee is before us in a pamphlet of 36 pages, containing a vast deal of important information contained in small space.

The conclusions to which the Committee have arrived, are exactly as might have been prejudged from its composition, but they are by no means convincing to our mind. When it is remembered that Ether and its combinations with Chloric Acid, have been almost exclusively employed in the United States, and when per contra it is remembered that Chloroform is almost exclusively