

to entering on the practice of medicine, has brought out a variety of opinions on the subject of medical education for women. On one point all the doctors are agreed—that no provision of the kind can be made at McGill without a large endowment. Generally they are opposed to medical co-education.

The subject of sugar beet cultivation in this province has again been taken up in the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Beauchamp, of Two Mountains, did not approve of beet growing, with a view to sugar making, as an industry for Canadian farmers. It would not pay them, he said, to get \$4.50 or even \$5 a ton. The Hon. Col. Rhodes went further still and said that rather than sell sugar beets at even \$6 a ton, he would feed them to his cattle in the winter. Mr. Macintosh, of Compton, spoke in the same sense.

The Montreal Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Canada passed a resolution in which, in view of the Governor-General having declined to intervene, the Queen in Council should be petitioned to annul the Jesuits' Estate Act. This resolution was wrongly based on Section 56 of the British North America Act, by which the Queen may disallow an act of the Dominion Parliament, within two years after the receipt of a copy of it by one of Her Majesty's Secretaries of State. The Section has no reference to Provincial acts, and the resolution, therefore, can have no effect.

THE LAKE ST. JOHN REGION.

While attention is eagerly directed to the resources of the Northwest and its adaptedness for settlement, it ought not to be forgotten that in the older provinces also there are still large tracts of country that can be utilized for colonization. In the Province of Quebec the Lake St. John region, for instance, has, in the course of some thirty years, become the home of a large and thriving community. In his *Etudes sur la Colonisation du Bas-Canada*, M. Stanislas Drapeau gives a sketch of the district in the year 1863. From the first the settlers were a hardy, enterprising and persevering class of *habitans*, and their industry and push overcame obstacles that would have intimidated less strenuous and determined pioneers. The one great drawback which their unaided efforts could not remove was their isolation. Means of communication with the rest of the civilized world they naturally regarded as among the conditions of their emigration to the wilderness. The boon was long delayed, but patience was rewarded at last. In December the line from Roberval to Quebec was opened, and the result has been an impulse to progress of every kind. The little town just mentioned is 190 miles from the provincial capital, and is beautifully situated on an elevation overlooking the lake. Its position as terminus of the main line gives it a certain predominance, and it has advanced apace during the last few months. A spacious hotel (well kept by Mr. Baker, formerly of the Windsor here); a large foundry and machine shop; a steam saw mill (built by Messrs. Ross, of Quebec), with capacity to saw twenty million feet of lumber in the season; a new convent of Ursulines, costing \$30,000; a passenger steamer, with accommodation for 300 persons, in operation on the lake; a fine wharf and, probably, lighthouses and buoys, to ensure safety to navigation, are among the projected improvements. The impetus

has also extended to other places in the district. Chambord Junction, St. Jerome, St. Gedeon, Herbertville, St. Prime, St. Felicien, St. Bruno, St. Joseph d'Alma, and other villages, share in the prosperity which has been quickened by the advent of the railway. The lumbering operations of the region are on an extensive rate and give winter employment to thousands of men. The colonization to Lake St. John is now sure to be steady and to yield satisfaction, and before many years that long isolated, though always thrifty, community, will be one of the most important productive centres in the province. As a summer resort the attractions of the lake district have been well described by Mr. Arthur Buies, the Hon. Boucher de la Bruère, Mr. S. E. Dawson, and others.

THE POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL.

In a recent article we gave a general survey of what had been accomplished in Canada in the way of provision for art education, using that term in its most comprehensive sense. The phase of that class of instruction in which we are, as a community, most practically interested is that which prepares our young men, by careful training, for the development of our national resources and the building up of our national industries. The necessity for commercial schools to fit young men for mercantile pursuits has long been recognized. The agricultural college is deemed essential for the promotion of farming according to the approved scientific methods of modern times. Without special courses of study it is impossible to practice medicine or law. The march of progress has tended to broaden the range of those pursuits which are worthy to be ranked as professional. Special knowledge is demanded for a variety of occupations which are of no less importance than those which have just been mentioned, and to be profitably applied to the desired end that knowledge must be acquired under qualified supervision and with the fullest opportunities for testing its utility. The arts of the chemist, the architect, the mineralogist, the engineer, the machinist—these and other vocations demanding special qualifications—cannot be learned without masters of thorough knowledge and experience. There was a time when persons competent to discharge the functions of some of the callings thus enumerated were extremely rare in this province, and, in many cases, those who had occasion for their services had to look beyond its limits for trustworthy men. Still more scarce were institutions where the superior and special education necessary for those engaging in the classes of work above indicated could be procured. This was more especially the case in the French-speaking section of our population. The want was keenly felt by several of our enterprising French-Canadian citizens, who could not help contrasting the abundant facilities, in this respect, enjoyed by France with the poverty that prevailed in her ancient colony. A movement was accordingly initiated for the purpose of supplying the lacuna. In 1869 the Hon. Mr. Chauveau, as Minister of Public Instruction, instituted a reserve fund to establish a school of applied science and technology. In 1873, under Mr. Chauveau's successor, the Hon. G. Ouimet, the "Scientific and Industrial School" was founded at Montreal. In 1876 the name was legally changed to that of "Polytechnic School." At the close of the session, 1876-77, the first diplomas

for engineering were granted to successful students.

The Polytechnic School, which owes much of its efficiency to Mr. U. E. Archambault, its principal, was modelled on the Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures of Paris. It thus comprised a thorough course in pure and applied mathematics; in drawing and construction; in physics and chemistry; in mineralogy and mining; in theoretical and applied mechanics; in hydraulics and steam engines; in topography and geodesy; in civil engineering and public works, cosmography, industrial economy and industrial legislation. The professors were selected for special learning and experience in their respective branches and for their aptitude as teachers. Their success is proved by the students turned out of the institution during the twelve, out of its fifteen, years of existence, in which it has been authorized to grant diplomas. Some of those students occupy important positions of high responsibility in the Government offices, in railway companies, in connection with mining enterprises or the great industrial establishments that have grown up during the last decade or so. In the year 1887 the Polytechnic School, after an independent career of fourteen years, under the Roman Catholic Board of School Commissioners, was affiliated with Laval University, of whose Arts Faculty it is now one of the departments. It still retains its name and character as a special school, but, in addition to the opportunities for special scientific and technical training which it formerly possessed, it has now the privilege and prestige of granting its diplomas in the name and under the auspices of one of our great provincial universities.

LITERARY NOTES.

We understand that Mr. Lighthall's volume on the Singers of the Great Dominion, in Mr. Walter Scott's series of Canterbury Poets, will shortly be in the hands of the public. A large circulation may be looked for as well in England as in Canada. Mr. Douglas Sladen is also preparing an anthology of the younger poets of America, in which Canada will not be unrepresented. A third collection of that kind recently appeared in Philadelphia, in which Miss Mary Morgan and Mr. Lighthall stood up for the honour of Canada.

The admirable series of "Canadian Poets," now in course of publication in the *King's College Record*, under the general supervision of Mr. Goodridge Roberts, brother of Prof. Roberts, the author of "Orion" and "In Divers Tones," treats in its last instalment of Col. John Hunter Duvar and the late Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee. The criticism of the former writer's works is from the pen of Mr. J. A. Payzant; that of McGee's poems bears the signature of "Felix." The series is, we understand, to be published in book form. The *Record* is a worthy representative of our oldest university. *Macte novâ virtute, puer!*

The Marquis of Lorne has consented to make the final selection for the Dominion prize from the fortunate essays selected from the various provinces in the *Witness* competition. Mr. S. E. Dawson will be judge for Newfoundland, Manitoba and British Columbia; Dr. A. A. Stockton, of St. John, for New Brunswick; Judge Alley, of the County Court, Queen's, in that Province, for Prince Edward Island; Dr. J. M. Harper, of Quebec, for this Province, and Mr. William Houston, M.A., Librarian of the Legislature, for Ontario. These prizes, \$1,200 in all, must have a good effect in stimulating both the patriotic spirit and the literary aspiration of our young people.

We have to thank Mr. Phileas Gagnon, of Quebec, for copies of *L'Union Libérale*, containing a series of articles from his pen, under the general heading of "Pierre Roubaud." The story there related, with *pièces justificatives* in the shape of correspondence, is of considerable historical interest, covering a period extending from the capture of Quebec until the years of Haldimand's administration. Roubaud's career is not without features of romance. He was a born intriguer. Yet his early services as a Jesuit missionary seem to have been free from reproach. His sphere of labour was among the Abenakis, and he acquired much influence among his Indian disciples. He accompanied Montcalm, as chaplain, on the expedition against Fort George, in 1757, of which he has left a somewhat detailed account. His later life—which closed in obscurity—was marked by many shifts and pretences, revealing much ability but a total disregard of principle and consistency.