

Toronto is the happy possessor of a Central Technical School occupying the whole of a large city block. In addition to this the Riverdale Branch Technical School, on a site of six acres, has been recently opened. This branch school is intended to accommodate 1100 day pupils and 4,000 evening students. The principal, Mr. W. R. Saunders, B.A., has taken as his watchword for the school—"English and Mathematics as the basis of any type of education." His ideal

for the school is the training of its students for their lifework in industrial pursuits, in such a way that a graduate may be not only a trained mechanic, but may be also qualified to stand beside the professional man on a common level, as an "educated gentleman." Mr. Saunders apparently in his own heart finds a ready response to the old question,—"Is not the life more than the meat, and the body than raiment?"

Literary

An interesting visitor in our midst just now is Dr. Lorne F. Pierce of Toronto, who is editor for the Ryerson Press. Dr. Pierce was co-editor with Dr. A. D. Watson of an excellent anthology of Canadian literature and he is now at work on the biography of the late Marjorie L. C. Pickthall, a work which will be looked forward to with keen expectation in Vancouver where Miss Pickthall had many friends and where her work is highly appreciated. Dr. Pierce will address the Ministerial Union of the Methodist Church while here, and be entertained by the local branch of The Canadian Authors Association. Dr. Pierce, according to the Press, recently raised some controversy in the East by his statement in a lecture that Robert J. C. Stead's fine sonnet "Kitchener" was the best Canadian war poem.

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Bliss Carman, who has been staying in the City since his recital here, has left for an extended trip to the Old Country in connection with the forthcoming publication of some of his works over there. It should be a matter of pride to Vancouverites that the poet now gives their city as his permanent address.

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Admirers of the poet and of his cousin, Charles G. D. Roberts, will find much to repay its perusal in "The Book of Roberts" by their nephew and son respectively, Lloyd Roberts. This is an intimate account of the Roberts family, its differ-

ent members, told with a great deal of literary charm and spiced with subtle humour. The writer has shown excellent discretion throughout and is neither fulsome nor too personal, although he retains throughout the intimate tone. Lloyd for a time had charge of the commissary at the studio which the poets kept in New York, and some of his reminiscences of this period are amusing in the extreme.

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Lovers of Robert Louis Stevenson will hail with pleasure the book of intimate recollections recently published and reviewed by his stepson, Lloyd Osbourne. No one except Mrs. Stevenson herself had a closer association with the novelist since the time of his marriage at least, and this work throws considerable light apparently on the circumstances surrounding it, which in the "Life" by Graham Balfour are but slightly and sketchily dealt with.

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Bertrand Sinclair has gone to California for an extended stay. He has another dashing sea-story about Vancouver and the bootlegging traffic in the last number of McLean's Magazine. The preceding number had a story by Francis Dickie, who makes his home at The Firs, Heriot Bay. What with John Nelson and Noel Robinson also contributing regularly to this periodical it would appear that British Columbia is holding its own in the columns of the premier magazine in Canada.

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