

BOOK NOTICES.

Doctor Bruno's Wife: A Toronto Society Story.

By Mrs. J. Kerr Lawson. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., Ltd. Anstruther: Charles D. Russell. Crown 8vo, 208 pp.

Mrs. Lawson is well-known in Canada, and her pen has given us some of the richest and raciest humor that has appeared in our literature. Her recent sojourn in Europe has been marked by much activity in the production of novels, and as a novelist she has made a very favorable impression. The present novel is of a highly meritorious order. The plot is one of the best in recent fiction. The handling of it is exceedingly skilful. Nowhere does the interest flag, and the reader is kept on the tip-toe of expectation from beginning to end, and is being constantly surprised by unexpected developments which are yet thoroughly natural. The story is very well told; the characters are drawn with faithfulness to nature, and a rich vein of humor sparkles in every page. Altogether the story is one of the best presented to the public in recent years.

Stories from Canadian History, based upon "Stories of New France." By Miss Machar and T. G. Marquis. Edited by T. G. Marquis, B.A. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. 96 pp.

This little work deserves a place in the school and home. The stories, which are all of some of the most interesting periods and most thrilling events in Canadian history, are selected with good judgment, and are told in a graphic, lucid and accurate style that reflects much credit on the authors and the editor. Many of the stories are such as will tend to make English-speaking Canadians proud of much in the history of New France, and the heroism that characterized the French-Canadians in their arduous early struggles in the wilderness. Several very interesting events of the British period are also narrated. The work is likely, wherever known, to instil a patriotic feeling in the youth of Canada.

Patriotic Recitations and Arbor Day Exercises.

By Geo. W. Ross, LL.D., Minister of Education, Ontario. Toronto: Warwick Bros. & Rutter. Crown octavo, 374 pp.

It is not a compulsory text book that the Hon. Mr. Ross has given to the teachers and schools of Ontario and Canada in this admirable volume, but a work that is almost certain to secure a large circulation, because it so well fills the demand which has been so marked of late years for literature calculated to develop patriotic feeling. The scope of the work is comprehensive. A brief section is devoted to acquaint-

ing the pupils, by exercises in which they can engage, with the constitution of the country, and the methods of conducting public business in parliamentary and municipal bodies. With considerable adroitness, the Minister of Education has introduced a sample meeting—it is to be feared, not the average meeting—of a board of school trustees, for the purpose of selecting a teacher. From the character of the sentiments expressed in the model, it is only a natural inference that the country boys who take part in the mock meeting will, when they become school trustees themselves, do much to raise the standard of salary for the rural teachers. The second, and greatest, part of the book is filled with patriotic selections in poetry and prose from the poets and public men of Canada. The selections are made with good taste and judgment, and besides stimulating the patriotism of Canadian youth, serve the additional purpose of bringing about a better knowledge of the treasures of Canadian literature. These selectives, which appear for the first time for purposes of school recitation, are truly representative of our patriotic and distinctly Canadian poems and speeches. No partiality in regard to politics is evidenced; but the endeavor is made to have our youth respect the great men of Canada, irrespective of partizan prejudices. The third part of the volume embraces, under the head of "universal patriotism," many of the best patriotic poems of the last few centuries. This collection is admirable. In the last part, relating to Arbor Day, an effort is made by a, perhaps, too brief essay on trees, and by suitable poems on trees, to develop that love of beauty which, perhaps, owing to the recent emergence of the world from the semi-barbarism of the middle ages, has been one of the lacks of our modern civilization. The Philistinism which leaves so many of our substantial farm houses bald and naked, without verandah or trees, and so many, even yet, of our school houses, ungraced by surrounding foliage, and that in our cities seeks to fill up and level to a dull monotonous ugliness every ravine and beautiful variation of level, requires a strong effort to conquer, and this instalment of effort in that direction will be welcomed by many. It is worthy of note, in connection with this volume, that, notwithstanding its size, good paper and printing, it is sold for only one dollar, the author receiving no part of the profits.

Prof. Goldwin Smith, as an essayist, ranks in some respects above either Macaulay or Addison, and his productions are amongst the very best reading English essay literature affords. His new volume of essays on public questions, which appears simultaneously from the press of Macmillan & Co., Boston, and Copp, Clark & Co., Ltd., of Toronto, will be widely read.