

the biography. But here the author is no less at home, and writes of Canadian literature *con amore*. He has given us a discriminating resumé of our literary forces, though here and there, as in the political narrative, Mr. Collins' own predilections sometimes unfeelingly come into view. His literary judgments, however, are not often at fault; and, in the case of verse, he has the true poetic instinct, combined with much imaginative and analytic power. The book on the whole is exceedingly creditable to this young author; and its dedication to Prof. Goldwin Smith is a fitting tribute to that gentleman's interest in Canadian literature and the impetus he has given to literary activity in the Dominion. In the coming years, much will be expected from Mr. Collins' pen, for his present work shows that he is capable of greater achievement and certain to win higher honours. As a writer, he has something both to learn and to unlearn; but with maturer mind and the subduing effect of age, he will, we venture to think, present himself with increasing acceptance to the reading constituency of Canada.

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ARITHMETIC FOR JUNIOR PUPILS; by Archibald MacMurchy, M.A., and James Brown, M.A. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co.

THIS is an excellent little work, well suited to the requirements of Public School pupils. Although for junior pupils, it carries the subject beyond the limit table for entrance to

High Schools, by adding simple exercises in Practice, Percentage, Interest, Discount, Ratio, and Square Root. This is certainly an advantage. Many junior pupils who have no opportunity of attending High Schools will thus have an opportunity of obtaining, without extra cost, the knowledge of arithmetic which will benefit them in after life. The work is well arranged: the expediency of placing the treatment of Compound Quantities immediately after the Simple Rules may be doubted; but, as this arrangement has been adopted in deference to the opinion of the Public School teachers of the Province, expressed at their last Convention, we do not propose to find fault with it. The theoretical exposition of the subject is well done, and, what we regard as one of the best features of the work, it contains numerous and well-graded examples. In a book for junior pupils, this qualification is one of the utmost importance. Expedition combined with accuracy should be the practical object of an education in arithmetic; and this can be secured only by constant practice in solving a varied collection of well-assorted and well-graded problems. We can safely say that the pupil who masters this book will have a well-digested knowledge of the principles that underlie all arithmetical processes. The mechanical execution of the book reflects credit on Messrs. Copp, Clark & Co., who have already made a reputation for themselves as the publishers of an excellent series of school manuals.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

### THE UNIVERSITY AND THE INSTITUTES.

THE results of the recent examinations of Toronto University furnish a strong argument against the present system of teaching the work of the First Year in Arts at University College. We find from the class lists that the candidates trained at the St. Catharines and Hamilton Collegiate Institutes, have succeeded in carrying off almost all the principal honors. Both mathematical

scholarships go to these Institutes, and the first position in the year is held by Miss Balmer, who was trained at St. Catharines for the examination. To this young lady have been awarded the scholarship in Moderns, and the second scholarship in General Proficiency. Only a short time ago, Miss Charles, from the same Institute, attained the Modern Languages and First General Proficiency Scholarship of the same year. And year after year the Hamilton Institute has been equally successful, carrying off